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BELGIUM.

THE death of King Leopold, though expected for some weeks past, and though it would have taken no one very much by surprise if it had occurred a year ago, has, now that it has taken place, excited something like a feeling of consternation. The Brussels newspapers assure us that the Belgian people will know how to bear their loss with dignity, though not without grief, and that they are under no apprehension for the future. The organ of the peace party in England not only thinks that there is no cause for apprehension, but absolutely ridicules the notion that danger could befall Belgium under any circumstances.

But we have not forgotten Mr. Cobden's speech on the subject of Belgian independence, nor the celebrated reply which it called forth from M. Van der Weyer. The great economist was of opinion that Belgium could only be saved by a reduction of the Belgian army and the demolition of the Belgian fortresses, while M. Van der Weyer maintained (in the pamphlet entitled "Richard Cobden, Roi des Belges") that if the Belgians threw away their arms, and made up their minds to exist as an independent nation only so long as their powerful military neighbour chose to allow them to do so, then, at the date of that decision, their days of independence would already be numbered. Mr. Cobden's final argument was to the effect that France could not swallow up Belgium in defiance of the general will of the inhabitants,

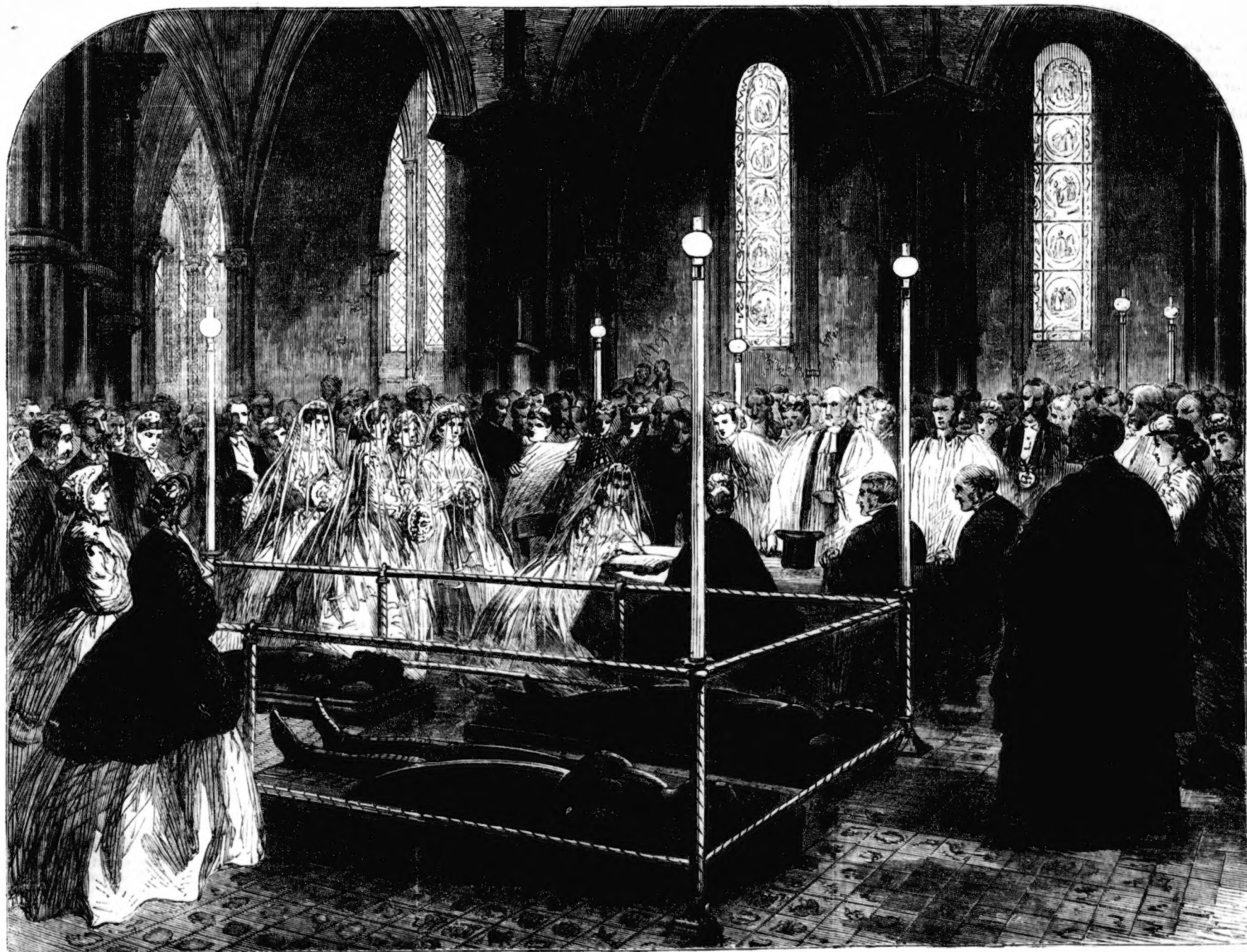
even if the French Government desired to take such a step, inasmuch as it was a rule in the present day—a rule, moreover, originated by France herself—never to seize foreign territory except in virtue of the wishes of the population, as expressed through universal suffrage. To this the Belgian Minister replied, not by a counter-argument, but by simply citing a few facts from the history of the annexation of the Low Countries to France by the French Republic. The citizens were consulted, and were allowed to vote for the annexation, but they were not allowed to vote against it. The ballot, too, was used, and there was no intimidation;—only, the ballot-boxes were taken care of by French soldiers; and it was they who gave out the voting-papers and superintended the voting generally.

If the French, alone or in conjunction with the Prussians, were to overrun Belgium, they would, no doubt, give the Belgians the opportunity of proclaiming, by an immense majority, that they were satisfied and delighted with their fate—in whatever manner their territory might be divided. According to the *Saturday Review*, which does not often suffer from Gallo-mania, the French are "far too liberal and civilised not to blush at the idea of repeating the old follies of Napoleon III. (does this mean the incorporation of Nice and Savoy with France, which is surely not such a very ancient piece of folly?), and crushing the individuality of Belgium without consulting Belgium's wishes." We quite believe that

if the French were to seize Belgium they would consult Belgium's wishes; but the plan, in these cases, is to seize the country first and to take the opinion of the people afterwards, through the officials of the conquering Power.

But why, it may be asked, is the question of the possible partition of Belgium raised at all? The Belgian diplomatist who replied to Mr. Cobden had no gloomy forebodings on the subject, though he hinted that France had always looked upon Belgium with a covetous eye. But a Belgian Minister who formerly held the portfolio of Foreign Affairs published a pamphlet, only a few months ago, in which the future of Belgium was represented in the saddest colours. The writer evidently believed that it was the destiny of his country at no distant period to share the fate of Denmark—we will not say that of Poland; for, however much the Belgians may object to the dismemberment of their native land, it can scarcely be said that they would suffer very much by becoming the subjects of the Emperor Napoleon. The French official journals ridiculed the fears of the old Belgian politician; but he appeared to know what he was writing about, and the rumours to which he called attention still circulate, and are very difficult indeed to account for, if they are as completely without basis as some of the French Government papers have affirmed.

Unfortunately, however, the French Government papers do not all adopt the same tone in treating this question of the



THE LATE MARRIAGE IN THE TEMPLE CHURCH: SIGNING THE REGISTER IN "THE ROUND."

future of Belgium. *La Patrie*, a semi-official journal with a strong Republican tinge, speaks of a redistribution of Belgian territory as something quite possible; and *Le Siècle*—a Republican organ and nothing else—coolly publishes a plan of dismemberment by which Brabant and Flanders are given to France; while Limburg and Luxembourg, the semi-Germanic provinces at which M. de Bismarck is supposed to be making eyes, go to Prussia. The important harbour and fortress of Antwerp, according to this scheme, would be made over to Holland; and, in consideration of this commanding point being placed beyond the reach of France, England is said to have given her consent to the new arrangement. *Le Siècle* modestly admits that it has "not seen the treaty" in virtue of which those important territorial changes are to be carried out; but it is, doubtless, quite right in supposing that if France and Prussia came to an understanding for enriching themselves at the expense of Belgium they would at least be obliged to leave Antwerp alone. With the French at Antwerp—which in their hands would become a second Cherbourg—we should have to double our Channel Fleet. But with Antwerp in the possession of the Dutch, it would not matter much to us, as a mere question of political and commercial interest, who had Brabant and Flanders, or who had Luxembourg and Limburg.

A WEDDING IN THE TEMPLE.

OUR Engraving represents a remarkable event—by which we do not mean a wedding, but the performance of the ceremony of marriage in the Temple Church for the first time for ninety-four years. As we have had no opportunity of examining the register we are not in a position to state who were the happy couple last united within these sacred and ancient walls; but an unusual interest attached to the recent celebration, inasmuch as the bride elect was Miss Esther Darnford Robinson, second daughter of the Venerable Archdeacon Robinson, Master of the Temple, and Canon of Rochester. The bridegroom was Arthur Hornby, Esq., late of the Bombay Civil Service, and now of Cold Earl, Hampshire. The marriage, which took place on Tuesday morning, the 5th inst., was by special license.

Just imagine the only wedding for nearly a century in that marvellous old round church—the like of which is not to be found in England—all amidst the cross-legged effigies of crusaders who have been dead these seven hundred years and more, and, being Knights Templars, were, of course, vowed to celibacy! One bachelor, however, is buried there who has written so sweetly of marriage that he may be almost supposed to consecrate the church to weddings—we mean Oliver Goldsmith; and in the precincts of the Temple itself have lived or died a host of poets, wits, and philosophers, from Chaucer to Johnson, and downward or upward to men of our own time.

In the church there also lie the remains of Sir Edmund Saunders, who, from being a strolling beggar about the Inns of Court, without friends or relations, became Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; but there is no memorial to mark his tomb.

With such reminiscences, and on such an occasion, there can be no wonder that the war of the white and red roses was fought again in the fair faces of the bridemaids as they assembled in that ancient "round," which is only a part of the present edifice. The church, in fact, is divided into the round church and the choir—the round church (of transition Norman-work) having been built in 1185, as shown by the date recorded in Saxon characters in the stonework over the little door next the cloister; the choir, of pure Early English, was finished in 1240.

In early times churches were frequently made use of during the week as places in which appointments were kept, and frequently became the resort of idlers, and even thieves; the former of whom—masterless men and unemployed vagabonds—frequented St. Paul's, under the name of Paul's Walkers. "The Round" of the Temple Church seems to have answered the purpose of a sort of legal Exchange, where lawyers met their clients; for we find Face, in Ben Jonson's "Alchemist," saying,

Here's one from Captain Face, Sir,
Desires you to meet him in the Temple Church
Some half hour hence.

And, again, in the same play—

I have walked the Round
Till now, and no such thing.

In Hudibras, too, we read—

Retain all sorts of witnesses
That ply 't the Temple under trees,
Or walk the Round with Knights o' th' Posts
About the cross-legged Knights their hosts;
Or wait for customers between
The pillar rows of Lincoln's Inn.

Otway, too, in "The Soldier's Fortune," says—

My companions the worthy Knights of the most noble order of the Post,
your peripatetic philosopher of the Temple walks.

The Preacher of the Temple is called Master of the Temple, and holds the living by patent from the Crown; the right of the presentation, however, is said to rest virtually in the Benchers, whose nomination is generally respected. The celebrated author of the Ecclesiastical Polity, who is generally known by the name of the "judicious" Hooker—as though the Hookers were not usually to be considered capable of remarkable judgment—was for six years Master of the Temple, "a place," says Isaac Walton, "which he accepted rather than desired."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The death of the King of the Belgians occupied the attention of the Parisians for several days, to the exclusion of almost every other topic. The *Moniteur* says the death of his Majesty has produced a deep and melancholy impression, and the loss of so wise a Sovereign has excited universal regret. The French Court, wishing to manifest its participation in this feeling, suspended the fêtes at Compiègne. The telegraphic message of the Emperor to the new King of the Belgians produced a favourable impression in Paris, and removed, at least for the present, the fears of any encroachment on Belgian territory.

The Mexican question is exciting some interest, and public attention is fixed on the forthcoming Message of President Johnson to Congress. By some parties it is feared the Message may contain offensive allusions to the presence of French troops on the American continent; but others have confidence in the good sense of the President, and are of opinion he will not unnecessarily involve himself in a quarrel with France, who, if left to herself, will be but too glad to seize the first opportunity to recall her troops.

SPAIN.

The Government contemplates taking under the protection of Spain the negro kingdoms on the African coast opposite Fernando Po, and to proclaim religious liberty in the latter island and the kingdoms in question.

The Budget will be presented to the Chambers between the 10th and 15th of January, and will contain reductions to the amount of 60,000,000 reales.

A Royal decree has been issued ordering that the civil course of legal procedure now obtaining in the mothercountry shall also be law in the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico.

ITALY.

Signor Sella made his financial statement on Wednesday in a crowded house. He announced a total deficit of 265,000,000, for the year 1866, and proposed reductions in the expenditure of 30,000,000, in addition to those already made. He asked the House to vote an increase of the registration tax, which would yield 20,000,000, and a new tax on doors and windows calculated to furnish 25,000,000. He also proposed a new tax upon grinding corn, which will give 100,000,000. Signor Sella, in conclusion, stated that by the gradual increase of the revenue derived from the old taxes the remainder of the deficit would shortly disappear. The House seemed to be impressed with the necessity of making these new sacrifices in order to restore Italian credit.

THE PONTIFICAL STATES.

The Apostolic Delegate of Frosinone has published a decree instituting a mixed commission for the summary trial of brigands. The decree declares that any assemblage of three armed brigands will be regarded as a band, the members of which will be shot. Any single armed brigand, not belonging to a band, will be sentenced to the galleys for life. A reward of 500 crowns will be paid for the arrest of any brigand, and 1000 crowns for the capture of the chief of a band.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria left Vienna on Tuesday for Pesth, in order to be present at the opening of the Hungarian Diet. His Majesty, on his arrival in the Hungarian capital, was received with great ceremony. Many members of the Diet were assembled at the Castle of Buda to receive him. It is stated that the Emperor has assured Prince Colloredo that he will make no concessions to Hungary that are incompatible with the interests of the whole monarchy.

An Imperial decree has been published extending the amnesty granted by the decree of the 18th ult. in favour of political offenders in Galicia and Cracow to those sentenced by the other Austrian judicial tribunals for complicity in the Polish insurrection.

The Bohemian Diet has had a stout fight with respect to the September Patent. The German members opposed an address to the Emperor in favour of the Patent, which was supported by the Czech members. Several German members of the Diet left the Chamber, and the address was then agreed to. The address of the Salzburg Diet expresses apprehension that the suspension of the Reichsrath will not be advantageous to the reconciliation of Hungary, and requests the full restoration at the earliest possible date of a Constitutional state of things.

PRUSSIA.

There are materials for a nice little quarrel at Berlin. It appears that the French and English Ambassadors were invited to be present at the marriage of the King's niece, Princess Alexandrine; but that when, after the ceremony, they discovered that places had not been reserved for them at the Royal table, they marched off in high dudgeon. The Chamberlain justifies himself on the ground of precedent.

SWEDEN.

The bill for the amendment of the Constitution, which is thereby rendered more liberal and made more in consonance with that of Norway, has been passed by all the branches of the Legislature. This event has given great satisfaction in Stockholm and throughout the country.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 2nd inst.

The *Tribune* says the relations of the Federal Government with England, and also with France, are entirely satisfactory, and that there is no prospect of their being disturbed—a statement which is supported by the announcement that the Federal army will be reduced to 50,000 men by the 1st of May next. The *Tribune* also says that President Johnson's Message will take the ground that, while the United States cannot be indifferent to the events transpiring in Mexico, yet interference on their part is unnecessary, and would prove injurious both to the United States and the Liberal cause.

The North Carolina Legislature had ratified the Constitutional amendment and elected five judges, which would probably allay the displeasure which President Johnson had expressed at the result of the North Carolina elections.

The President had issued a proclamation restoring the privileges of *habeas corpus* throughout the country except in the late rebellious States.

The United States Circuit Court had assembled at Norfolk, Virginia. It was rumoured that this Court would try Mr. Davis.

Twelve hundred negroes had left Charleston to return to the employment of their former masters on Sea Island.

A collision had occurred at Grenada, Mississippi, between the military and the armed negroes, who were discovered concealing a large quantity of arms.

It was stated that the agents of the southern planters who went to Brazil to negotiate for lands have met with a cordial reception, and a large emigration from the United States was expected.

The Spanish Minister had read a despatch to Mr. Seward concerning the slave trade, replete with the most emphatic expletives expressing opposition to the outrageous traffic, and pledging the most earnest efforts of the Spanish Government for its extirpation.

MEXICO.

From New York we have a large quantity of Mexican news. It relates chiefly to fights and disputes which have taken place on the American frontier, and seems to indicate a desire to involve America in the Mexican quarrel. There is, however, very little reliance to be placed upon the news.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

Telegrams from Shanghai and Canton do not give us any very elevated idea of the peace of China. Piracy is said to have increased, and several of the pirates in the neighbourhood of Amoy had been hunted out by gun-boats. The Burgevine business is likely to cause trouble, the American Consul having declared that the treaty with the United States has been violated.

From Japan we hear that the foreign Ministers had gone on an expedition to open foreign trade at some new place, the name of which is not clear.

NEW ZEALAND.

From New Zealand we have the unpleasant news that there are no indications of a speedy termination of the war. It is said the natives laughed at the Governor's peace proclamation and murdered the first messenger who bore copies of it to them. Mr. Broughton, the interpreter of the Imperial forces, had been murdered by the Wanganui natives. A warlike meeting of the chiefs had been held, at which they all expressed their determination to retake the Waikato territory.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—According to the Secretary of the Atlantic Telegraph Company, several hundred miles of the core or interior portion of the new telegraph cable are completed. The Great Eastern is chartered to go to sea in June, 1866, for the double purpose of laying an entirely new cable and of raising the broken end of the 1100 miles of cable laid this year, so as to splice additional cable thereto, and thus, if successful, furnish to the public a second means of communication. This 1100 miles of submerged cable is ascertained to be in the most perfect order by tests taken from the time it broke, and still continued daily. The buoys at the end of it are washed away, "but this," writes Mr. Seward, "is of no consequence, as they were intended only for a temporary purpose, the spot for grappling having been laid down by solar observations, so that a good navigator can at any time sail to within half a mile of the broken cable."

ROBBERIES IN THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY.—Lately these robberies have been of frequent occurrence. Not long ago an experienced shorthand writer, well acquainted with the ins and outs of the court, actually had his coat stolen before his eyes while taking a judgment of the Lord Chancellor. He could not leave off writing for fear of losing a sentence, and could not make a disturbance for fear of committing for contempt. Only within the last few days a reporter had a small parcel containing valuables abstracted from his coat pocket whilst taking a judgment of the Lords Justices. Surely something should be done to repress this nuisance.

DEATH OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.

His Majesty the King of the Belgians died, at a quarter to twelve o'clock on Saturday last, at his palace at Laeken, in his seventy-fifth year. The King had been gradually sinking for several days previously. The event created a profound sensation in Brussels. Most of the shops were closed, the streets thronged with silent crowds, and mourning emblems were displayed from most of the houses.

The Council of Ministers issued a proclamation, which, after announcing the death of his Majesty King Leopold, says:—

The Belgian people will await with confidence the approaching day upon which the representatives of the nation will receive the Constitutional oath from the heir to the Throne. Until this oath shall have been taken, the Constitutional powers of the King will be exercised in accordance with Article 79 of the Constitution, in the name of the Belgian people, by the Ministers assembled in Council, and under their responsibility.

The mortal remains of the late King were transported to Brussels on Tuesday evening by torchlight. The body was to lie in state on Wednesday, Thursday, and the funeral to take place on Saturday (this day).

It is stated that the King of Portugal, the Prince of Wales, the Prince of Prussia, and Prince Louis of Hesse, have announced their intention of being present at the funeral.

The new King will make his entry into the capital to-morrow, and will review the army and the civic guard; after which his Majesty will take the Constitutional oath in the presence of both Chambers.

King Leopold II. has received the following telegram from the Emperor Napoleon:—

The Empress and myself sympathise most deeply in the affliction which has befallen you. Your august father always displayed great affection towards me, and I always entertained for him the same feeling. King Leopold was renowned for his great intelligence and wisdom. He was one of the most justly revered Monarchs of Europe. I hope that on the throne you will follow the great example bequeathed by your illustrious predecessor. On every occasion I shall be happy to give you proof of the affection I feel for you.

Leopold the First, King of the Belgians, was one of the most distinguished amongst the many members of the able and enterprising House of Coburg, who, during the vicissitudes of the present century, have made their way to a foremost place amongst the princes of Europe.

Leopold, Duke of Saxony, Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Margrave of Meissen and Landgrave of Thuringia, was the third and youngest son of Francis, late reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, and was born at the ducal capital of Coburg, Dec. 16, 1790. He was fortunate in both his parents, his father being a man of great intelligence, culture, and political sagacity, and his mother—a princess of the ancient and celebrated House of Reuss of Plawna—a woman of varied accomplishments, fine taste, rare elevation of mind, and great strength of character. All her powers were devoted to the education of her children, and the peculiar attachment which in after life subsisted amongst all the members of the Coburg family is justly attributed to her influence. The young Prince Leopold received an excellent education, and distinguished himself so much by his attainments in science, literature, and art, that he early acquired the reputation of being one of the most accomplished princes in Europe. He embraced the profession of arms, to which his elder brothers were already devoted, and which was in fact in the then disturbed state of Europe the only course open to a titled youth of spirit and ambition. Indeed, not only his brothers, but his uncles, were all military men of mark, one of them, his uncle Frederick, having a few years before acquired a European fame. Being at length free to pursue his military career, Prince Leopold, in the year 1808, accompanied the Emperor of Russia and his brother-in-law, the Grand Duke Constantine, to the interview with Napoleon at Erfurt. The marriage of his sister with the Grand Duke had decided him some years before to enter the Russian service, and he had, in fact, been made a General in the Russian army as early as 1804, when he had been little more than a year in active service. Napoleon, who kept a keen eye on the Coburg princes, and watched with peculiar jealousy their proceedings, formally demanded that Prince Leopold should quit the Russian army. Prince Leopold hastened to Paris to remonstrate in person against this demand; but he was told that, if he hesitated any longer to comply, his uncle's possessions would be seized. He accordingly left the Russian army silently, retaining his rank, by permission of the Emperor, till he might be able again to assume it publicly. Meanwhile, he assiduously devoted himself to business, to study, and to travel. At first he assumed his place in the management of the duchy; in 1811 he negotiated with the King of Bavaria a future treaty of great importance to the principality of Coburg, and in 1812 made a tour through Switzerland and Italy. At the commencement of 1813 the three brothers of the house of Coburg exerted themselves, as far as their situation permitted, to prepare for the emancipation of Germany, Leopold, in particular, devoting himself with the greatest ardour, but, at the same time, with characteristic caution, to the spread and organisation of the movement. The declaration of war against France enabled him to resume his position in the Russian army, and as a General of cavalry he greatly distinguished himself in the campaigns that followed. He was present and took an active part in the various engagements that marked the progress of the allies, at Lutzen, Bautzen, Kulm, and the more terrible and decisive Battle of Leipzig, where he displayed not only signal coolness and courage but great military talent. His distinguished services were acknowledged by the allied Sovereigns; and for the part he had taken in these engagements he was decorated with the orders of St. George and St. Marie Theresa. After the campaign of the ensuing spring he entered Paris with the cavalry reserve, and subsequently accompanied the allied Sovereigns to London, being specially attached to the Emperor Alexander.

It was during this visit that Prince Leopold attracted the notice of Princess Charlotte of England. That the Prince should have made a deep impression on the heart of the Princess, and that a strong mutual attachment should have speedily sprung up between them, is certainly not surprising. Princess Charlotte united to rare purity and elevation of mind a charming person and a deeply affectionate nature; while Prince Leopold had almost everything that could recommend him to such a nature—youth, manly beauty, rare accomplishments, sterling sense, as well as sentiment, high spirit, and a military reputation won by distinguished services in the field. He protracted his stay in England some weeks after the departure of the allied Sovereigns; and, though his proposal for the hand of the Princess was at first rejected—she being at that time, in fact, affianced to the Prince of Orange—he left with a strong hope of ultimate success. In September he repaired to Vienna in order to protect, before the Congress, his own rights and the interests of his family. The return of Napoleon from Elba, however, suddenly recalled him to his post in the army, and he rejoined his corps on the banks of the Rhine. After the Battle of Waterloo he proceeded on family business to Paris, and thence to Berlin, where the invitation of the Prince Regent reached him, formally intimating the preference he had gained in the affections of his daughter, Princess Charlotte of Wales. The Prince accordingly proceeded forthwith to England, and on the 26th of March, 1816, a message of the Prince Regent to both Houses of Parliament acquainted them with the approaching marriage of his daughter, which took place on the 2nd of May. The Prince had been previously naturalised, created Duke of Kendal, and invested with the rank of Field Marshal. The estate of Claremont, in Surrey, was purchased for the Royal couple, and Marlborough House, Pall-mall, was assigned for their town residence, with an allowance of £60,000 per annum, which, in case Leopold should survive his consort, was then to be reduced to £50,000. Though the country was at that moment watching with intense jealousy over the national expenditure, public opinion having taken a strong and decisive turn in favour of rigid economy, this munificent sum was voted almost by acclamation. The marriage was hailed throughout the country as a public blessing, and the most sanguine hopes were entertained respecting it. These hopes were suddenly and terribly blighted. On Nov. 6, 1817, the Princess expired in childbirth. This terrible calamity plunged the whole nation in deep and universal grief. The virtues of the

Princess had so endeared her to the hearts of the people that her premature death excited not only the profoundest sense of public loss, but the deeper and more poignant emotion of private sorrow. The bereaved husband suffered intensely with the bereaved nation, and his deep and tender grief found, among other forms, local expression of a peculiar and striking kind. In the apartments commonly used by himself and his Royal consort every article remained for many years, by his direction, precisely as her own hand had left it, and a small Gothic building erected in the grounds at Claremont, and destined for the purpose of pleasure and recreation, was converted by him into a monument to her memory. For many years Prince Leopold continued to reside at Claremont, but in great seclusion and retirement, taking hardly any part in public affairs.

The formation of the kingdom of Greece in the year 1830, however, recalled Prince Leopold from his long retirement, and prepared the way for his once more taking an active and useful part in public affairs. The three allied Powers who had undertaken the pacification of Greece offered his Royal Highness the hereditary sovereignty of the new State, and on the 11th of February he conditionally accepted the offer. In the negotiations that followed the Prince displayed the caution as well as the political wisdom and sagacity that has so strikingly marked his subsequent career. Finding that he could not obtain for the new kingdom the boundaries necessary to secure its independence, and that this disputed question excited a strong feeling of dissatisfaction in the country itself, he finally declined the offered crown in the May following. The wisdom of this decision has been amply justified by the result, while the Prince who made it was soon rewarded for any temporary sacrifice it involved. The Belgian revolution of 1830 having successfully established the independence of the country, and secured towards the close of the year its recognition by the western Powers, the national congress appointed to frame a Constitution decided on a monarchical form of government, and, after a fruitless negotiation with the Duc de Nemours, offered the crown to Prince Leopold. The offer was made on the 4th of June, 1831; but there were so many difficulties connected with the new Government, and so many points to be settled before the Belgian Congress could come to an understanding with the allies, that it could at first be accepted only conditionally. Leopold, however, gave the best proof of his good faith towards the Belgians and his zeal in their cause by offering his services to represent them in the London Conference and to conduct the pending negotiation in their behalf. His efforts, marked throughout with characteristic wisdom, firmness, and moderation, were successful. On the 26th of June he received officially a deputation from the Belgian National Congress, and urged them strongly to accept the treaty of eighteen articles proposed by the London Conference. After some considerable discussion this was agreed to, and, the preliminary difficulties being thus removed, Leopold accepted the new dignity, made his public entry into Brussels on the 21st of July, and, after swearing to maintain the Constitution, was formally inaugurated King of the Belgians. On assuming the crown he relinquished, so long as he continued to wear it, the annuity of £50,000 settled upon him by the British Parliament upon condition that the Government should take upon itself the payment of the pensions granted by himself and Princess Charlotte, and the expense of maintaining the mansion and park of Claremont.

The two great parties of the state combined to secure the liberal Constitution which is the glory of Belgium, and which, after long and animated discussion, was voted and promulgated in 1831. The Catholics demanded the right of worship, the liberty of education, and of religious association. The main points insisted on by the Liberals were the national sovereignty of which the King is head and representative, responsible Ministers, the equality of all in the eye of the law, the liberty of the press and of association, popular election, and the system of trial by jury. These fundamental principles were secured by the Constitution, and throughout his long reign Leopold devoted himself with exemplary fidelity as well as with unflinching prudence, tact, and moderation to the task of carrying them into effect. It was a task of extraordinary difficulty, and Leopold's perfect success is the best proof of his practical wisdom and great ability. The main secret of his success was his unswerving fidelity to constitutional principles. The model of a constitutional ruler, he never identified himself with any party in the State, but uniformly strove to conciliate hostile sections and bring them into working harmony for the common good. It is only just to say that he kept the good of the nation constantly in view, and manifested an enlightened and consistent loyalty towards public opinion. He had, however, a remarkable aptitude, partly natural and partly acquired, for perceiving the various changes of popular feeling; in a word, for interpreting public opinion, as well as a supreme tact in meeting popular requirements before they became importunate. Of this unflinching tact a dozen examples might be quoted, but one of the best known will be sufficient. The King safely timed over the difficulty of 1848 by an act of courageous deference to popular feeling, of daring confidence in the good-will of his subjects. The revolutionary excitement reached Brussels, and there was a clamour amongst the disaffected for a republic. The King immediately came to the capital, and declared himself ready to surrender the crown if his people wished it. This public and unexpected announcement at once dissipated the threatened storm, strengthened the feeling of order, and established the King more firmly than ever in the affections of his people. It was by this remarkable fidelity to the popular cause and interests, this rare constitutional patriotism, that Leopold overcame all difficulties, gained the enthusiastic attachment of his adopted people, and has died in a good old age, eminently and universally respected, beloved, and revered.

On assuming the crown of Belgium, Leopold married Princess Louise of Orleans, daughter of the late Louis Philippe. The children of his second marriage are Leopold, Duc de Brabant, now Leopold II., born on the 9th of April, 1835; the Comte des Flandres, born in 1837; and Princess Charlotte, born in 1840. The Duc de Brabant led to the altar, in 1853, an Austrian Archduchess, daughter of the late Archduke Joseph, Palatine of Hungary. There are two children by this marriage—a daughter, born in 1858, and a son, who in the course of nature will be Leopold III., born on the 12th of June, 1859. King Leopold sought an Austrian alliance for his daughter as well as his son, and she was espoused, in 1857, by the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, brother of the reigning Emperor, and himself, at the present moment, "Emperor of Mexico."

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CAPE HAYTIAN.

We have already published full details, as far as they are as yet known, of the bombardment of the forts at Cape Haytian and of the loss of the attacking vessel, the *Bulldog*. We now print an Engraving showing the *Bulldog* in the act of firing upon Fort Peckeleet. Of the proceedings subsequent to the appearance of the *Galatea* on the scene of action we have no public accounts; but a correspondent writes to a daily contemporary as follows:—"Not seeing any account in the public prints of the destruction of the forts at Cape Haytian, on Nov. 9, by her Majesty's ships the *Galatea* and *Lily*, I write to mention to you that I have received a letter stating that, after two days' fruitless negotiation, the *Galatea* and *Lily*, at nine a.m. on the 9th, engaged the forts; that the firing continued all day, and that at six p.m. the last fort was silenced. As each fort was silenced the Government troops, under President Geffard, charged up and took possession of it. The rebels retreated up into the mountains, closely followed by the Government troops; and at night the town (which I presume to be Acoul) was set on fire in seven different places. It had previously been besieged for seven months by 15,000 Government troops. The *Lily* had several men hurt, but the *Galatea* had none."

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH was desirous to recognise the Duke of Brabant as Leopold II., King of the Belgians, even before his Royal Highness should have taken the Constitutional oath. The Duke replied that, while he could not but be deeply touched by this act of good neighbourly, he preferred remaining Duke of Brabant until he became King of the Belgians by taking the oath to the Constitution.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

THE ARRANGEMENTS.

HAD the Smithfield Club resolved not to hold its annual show of fat cattle this year no one would have been much surprised, though London would have been deprived of one of its chief festivals. With the rinderpest striking down animals all over the country, there was amply sufficient ground for the club, had it thought fit, to decline the responsibility of bringing together the choicest cattle in the island. Wisely, however, as most people will think, the club determined that the show should be held; only taking every precaution that the best knowledge of the subject could suggest against the possibility of the plague being brought into the collection of animals. There are not a few persons who believe that the fearful disease which is ravaging our herds has not been brought from the steppes of Kherson or the pastures of Poland, but that it has been generated in the foul sheds in which it has been too much the custom of cowkeepers in London and elsewhere to house their animals. They say, and with much show of reason and justice, that just as fever haunts the dirty purlieus of Bethnal-green and the undrained and crowded courts and alleys of our large towns, so will the cattle plague be born again and again of the filth and bad ventilation of ill-designed cowhouses. Assuming the correctness of all this, it is manifest that, if the cattle could be brought perfectly healthy to the Agricultural Hall at Islington, they would run no risk of becoming diseased while they remained on show there. Its lofty roof and wide aisles, its perfect ventilation and thorough cleanliness, its abundant supply of good water, and the facilities it possesses for the speedy isolation of any animal, are all so many guarantees for the health of the cattle sent to it for exhibition. Plainly, then, there need be no fear of the rinderpest making its appearance in the hall if human skill and sanitary appliances are at all effective for the prevention of the disease. The precautions which it has been thought necessary to take in reference to the admission of animals has undoubtedly militated against the completeness of this year's show, so far as the number of entries and the quality of the stock are concerned. One of the stipulations of the club was, that no animal which had been shown at any of the Christmas fat cattle shows in the country should be admitted to the Agricultural Hall. There can be no doubt that this was a wise and proper regulation. Its effect, however, is to keep away some of the best animals of the year. Of late the Smithfield Club Show has contained most of the choicest prize-takers at Bingley Hall. This year, by the operation of the rule we have mentioned, all these are absent; and an entirely fresh collection of cattle has been brought together at Islington. The shorthorn steer, with which Mr. Wood carried off all the best prizes at Birmingham, and which is now being exhibited at the Crystal Palace, would, it is admitted, have beaten any animal shown in the Agricultural Hall; and there were other beasts at the great Midland show last week, which, had they been in London now, would have very much improved the character of this year's Smithfield Club exhibition. Let it not be imagined, however, that the cattle in the Agricultural Hall are a wholly inferior lot. They are nothing of the kind. Probably the butchers, to whom they are all to be sold, will agree that they are as good a collection as could have been wished for. Most of them are fine meaty animals, with abundance of flesh and not mere fat. But there is not that general excellence of form to which the attendants at the Smithfield Club Show have been accustomed.

THE CATTLE.

This year's exhibition will be noted for the fact that for the first time in the history of the club the silver cup for the best steer or ox in any of the classes has gone to a Highland ox. The shorthorns have generally been the fortunate prize-takers, sharing the honours pretty fairly, however, with the Herefords. Once, at least, we believe during the Crimean War, a Devon carried off the palm; and the year before last it went to a crossbred. This year, the shorthorn oxen were nowhere, and the contest for the first prize lay between a sweet Devon, belonging to Major-General Hood, and a Highland steer belonging to the Duke of Sutherland. The judges were a long time in considering their award; but at last the Highlander had it. He is a splendid fellow, with a level, broad back, deep flanks, well-covered sides, well-set head, good shoulders, and symmetrical hind quarters. His hind legs are not, however, perfect models of bovine beauty. He is five years and eight months old, and was bred by Dr. Gillivray, of Barrd. It is noticeable that the Duke of Sutherland is quite a new exhibitor—this being, we believe, his first year.

The silver cup for the best heifer in the show has gone, as usual, to a shorthorn. She is a beautiful animal, three years and three months old, bred and shown by the Earl of Radnor. There has rarely been seen a more thoroughly symmetrical heifer. The system adopted last year of judging in public was again acted upon on this occasion, and, we cannot doubt, will become a regular institution. The judges began their work at nine o'clock in the morning on Monday, and the judging went steadily on, to the great interest of the spectators, until two o'clock, when the doors of the hall were thrown open, and all persons who chose to pay five shillings for the privilege were admitted. It was remarked that, wherever there was something like equality in the appearance of the cattle under examination, the judges gave the preference to those with the best pedigree. Of course this is no new thing; but this year it attracted more attention than usual, not because it led to any actual injustice being done, but because, in several cases, the animals were so evenly matched that nothing but the superiority of the pedigree of the one could account for its being chosen above the other.

The Devons were, as a class, the best in the exhibition. They always come out with great strength at these annual gatherings, and on this occasion they did no discredit to their traditions. All the best-known breeders and feeders were well represented. In the first class Mr. Overman, of Barnham Sutton, carried off the first prize with a good, well-covered animal, having capital hind quarters and a well-set head. General Hood took second place with a neat steer, not so large as that of Mr. Overman, but more shapely. In the second class, Mr. Overman again carried off the honours with a really splendid animal. Mr. John Burton's steer, which took second honours, is also a very fine animal, even, firm, and well-shaped. In the third class, Major-General Hood won the first prize, with the ox which, as we have already stated, ran the Duke of Sutherland's Highlander so close. It is a fine, well-covered animal, which would have been perfection had its back been a little more level. Mr. Heath, of Ludham Hall, Norfolk, took second honours in this class with a good, useful, shapely beast; and the third prize went to Mr. Thomas Bond, of Park, North Petherton. Mr. John Walter, late M.P. for Berkshire, also showed a very nice animal in this class. The class for Devon heifers under four years old, though not numerically large, was generally good, Mr. Walter Farthing, of Stowey Court, taking first honours, and Mr. John Walter, late M.P. for Berkshire, coming second. The animals shown by both these gentlemen were very neat and well shaped. In the Devon cows over four years old Mr. Heath came first, while the second prize was taken by Mr. William Smith, of Higher Hoopern, Mr. Farthing only getting into the third place.

The Herefords were very moderate. There was scarcely an animal in the five classes that was up to the usual mark. Some of them, however, came very near. The steer shown in class 7, by Mr. Lewis Loyd, of Monk's Orchard, was a good shapely beast, with fair round barrel and capital hind quarters. Mr. Heath's steer, which carried off the prize in class 8, is also a very fair specimen of the breed. The heifer classes were quite weak, both in numbers and in quality.

The short-horned steers were about as poor a collection as we remember to have seen at any of the great fat cattle shows. Some one or two of them were tolerably fair animals—notably that shown in class 11 by Mr. James How, of Broughton, Huntingdonshire. But for the most part they had an unprepared look, as if the feeders had been afraid of putting them forward; moreover, they were numerically weaker than usual. The shorthorn

heifers were much nearer the usual standard. We have already said that one of their number, belonging to the Earl of Radnor, took the silver cup as the best heifer in the show. In the same class in which this beautiful animal was entered there was a remarkable instance of the correctness of what has been said in reference to the judges giving the palm to pedigree. For the third prize in the class two animals were taken out—one belonging to Mr. Frederick Stoneham, of Crayford, and the other to Mr. John Parish, of Brith. Both were almost models of what a good shorthorn cow should be, and obviously if there had been no other consideration than form, either might have had the prize. But Mr. Stoneham's heifer had a good pedigree on both sides, while that belonging to Mr. Parish was only clear on the side of her sire. The prize therefore went to the former animal. In judging of heifers not only must their form, and the fact that they have much meat with little bone be considered, but great weight must be attached to their capacity for breeding purposes. This, of course, is mainly to be judged of by the race from which they spring, and hence the preference of the judges for the animals with the best pedigree.

The Sussex classes were fairly filled, and contain some very fine animals. It is a good deal the fashion to pass over this breed as not being worthy of notice; while everybody has a good word for the Devons. Yet, except that the Sussex breed always fall off a little in the hind quarters, where the Devons show their best, the former seem to us very symmetrical and useful animals. Undoubtedly they are good friends to the butchers. Not even Herefords cut up more juicily and with a better yield of flesh. Those on show this year were very good specimens of the breed. The steer belonging to Mr. Thomas Barton, of the Grove, Robertbridge, which took the first prize in the class for steers or oxen above three years old, was a beautiful beast.

The Norfolk or Suffolk polled classes were neither very strong in numbers nor very good in quality; and of the long-horned breeds there were only two specimens. The Scotch horned classes had, of course, a good deal of interest this year, because, as we have stated already, the prize for the best beast in the yard has gone to one of their number. The other animals in the class, however, were by no means extraordinary. Some of them were respectable, but nothing more. In the Scotch polled breeds, Mr. McCombie and Mr. Stewart showed some big but not very fine cattle. The first prize in the steers was, however, taken by Mr. Andrew Longmore, of Linksfield, Rattie Banff, with a very good beast. The Irish breed, though not numerous, was well represented; and the same may be said of the Welsh breed. The crossbreds were by no means extraordinary, though there were some huge animals among them. The best steer, to our thinking, in these classes, was that shown by Mr. John Napper, in class 33. It was a cross between a Devon and a Sussex, and showed completely how perfect an animal may thus be produced. Among the extra-stock cattle Earl Spencer showed a very nice shorthorn cow, with fine level back, good arched, well-covered ribs, and hind quarters capitally filled.

THE SHEEP.

The chief features in the show of sheep were the Leicester classes. Rarely has this useful breed shown to more advantage. The competition was as strong as ever between Mr. Foljambe and Lord Berners, but the former was left far behind. As in the cattle classes, the Duke of Sutherland, a new exhibitor, carried off leading honours, so in Southdowns a new name appears—that of Lord Sondes. His Lordship showed a capital pen twenty-two months old, for which the silver cup was awarded. There was not much that was worthy of note in the other classes. They were all well filled, and the sheep generally were of very superior quality.

THE PIGS.

Of the pigs we have only a poor account to give. They were altogether below the standard of former years. The pig which would, it is said, have carried off the first prize had it lived, unfortunately sustained some injury in travelling, and died soon after it reached the show. It belonged to Mr. Joseph Henry Clark, of Maidenhead, Berkshire. Another superb pen of animals lost the first place through a singular misadventure. Their owner had, by mistake, entered them for a class for which they were too young, and thus they were disqualified. Had they been properly entered the prize would have been theirs. As it is, the silver cup for the best pigs in the show goes to the Earl of Radnor, for a pen of the Colehill breed—very nice well-shaped animals. Most of the animals were not too fat to stand; and, when we visited the hall, at any rate, they were by no means generally somnolent.

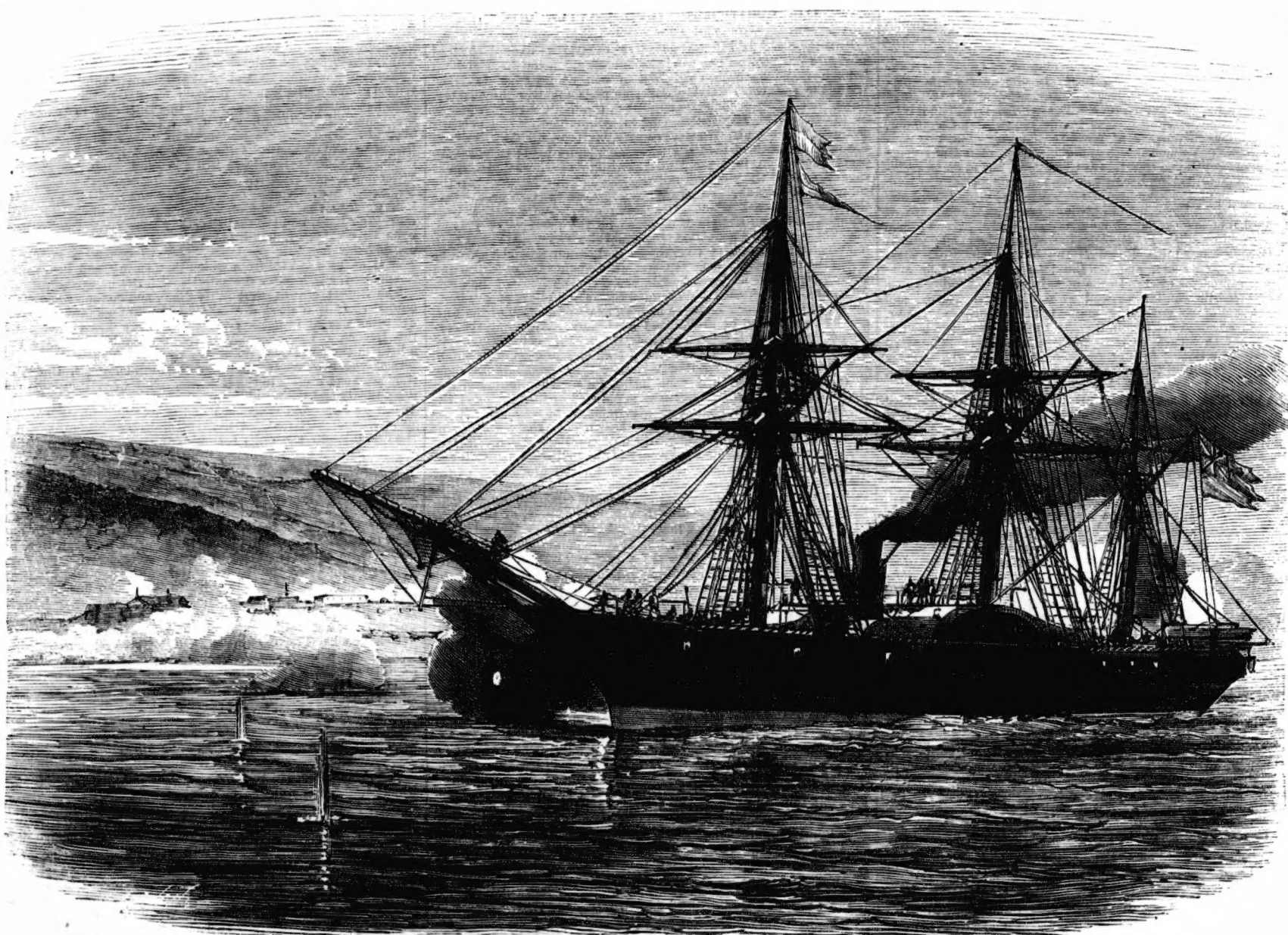
THE LATE ACCIDENT ON THE VALE OF NEATH RAILWAY.

WE this week publish an Engraving representing the wreck caused by the late accident on the Vale of Neath Railway at Swansea. The scene of the catastrophe was the north lock, which forms the main entrance to the town float. It appears that about six o'clock the usual coal-trains were in motion, preparing to cross the bridge that spans the lock of the north dock. This bridge is erected on Sir William Armstrong's hydraulic principle, is most powerfully built, and is worked by the most simple and efficient code of signals that modern science and railway engineering could devise. Had these signals been duly worked the accident would not have happened. By some strange and apparently utterly inexcusable negligence on the part of the signalman, however, the signals were made to give information precisely the reverse of the truth, and the lamentable result has been the occurrence depicted in our Engraving. About six o'clock a large coal-train, propelled by one of the most powerful engines of the Vale of Neath Railway, attached to which were no less than thirty trucks, the whole being under the charge of William Cole, a driver in the employ of the company, and another man, approached the bridge. The bridge was open at the time, but the signalman, John Howells, instead of telegraphing to this effect, gave the signal "line clear." The consequence, of course, was that the train rushed on, and upon reaching the bridge fell over with a tremendous crash into the lock below. The two men in charge were killed on the spot, or, rather, drowned, as was evident from the state of the bodies when found some days afterwards. It is said that the guard, seeing the red light, and perceiving the danger, jumped off the train and thus saved his life. The engine and trucks were shattered to pieces, and they and their contents completely choked up the entrance to the dock. Intelligence of the accident was at once conveyed to the railway authorities, and Mr. Kelly and Mr. Batchelor, the heads of the department in the town, were speedily on the spot, giving such directions as were necessary for clearing away the wreck, recovering the dead bodies, and repairing, as far as possible, the damage which had been done. A telegram was at once sent to Neath giving information of the occurrence, and requesting that a strong staff of assistants might be sent. The ill news spread with astonishing rapidity through the town, and thousands of people visited the scene of the accident, the keepers of the tollgate having as much as they could do to supply tickets to the crowds who pressed over the lock bridge to get the best view of the results of the accident.

The damage caused by the accident will involve a loss of thousands of pounds, to say nothing of the obstruction caused to the coal trade, and especially the working of the float, the lock being filled with the debris. The lock gates are apparently but little injured, having had a most miraculous escape. Had the fallen mass touched the gates, which were within a few feet, the result must have been horrible to contemplate, as the water of the whole float must at once have rushed through the gate, and carried all before it.

The signalman Howells, and the bridgeman Bartlett, have been arrested, and a rigid investigation into the cause of the accident is being made.

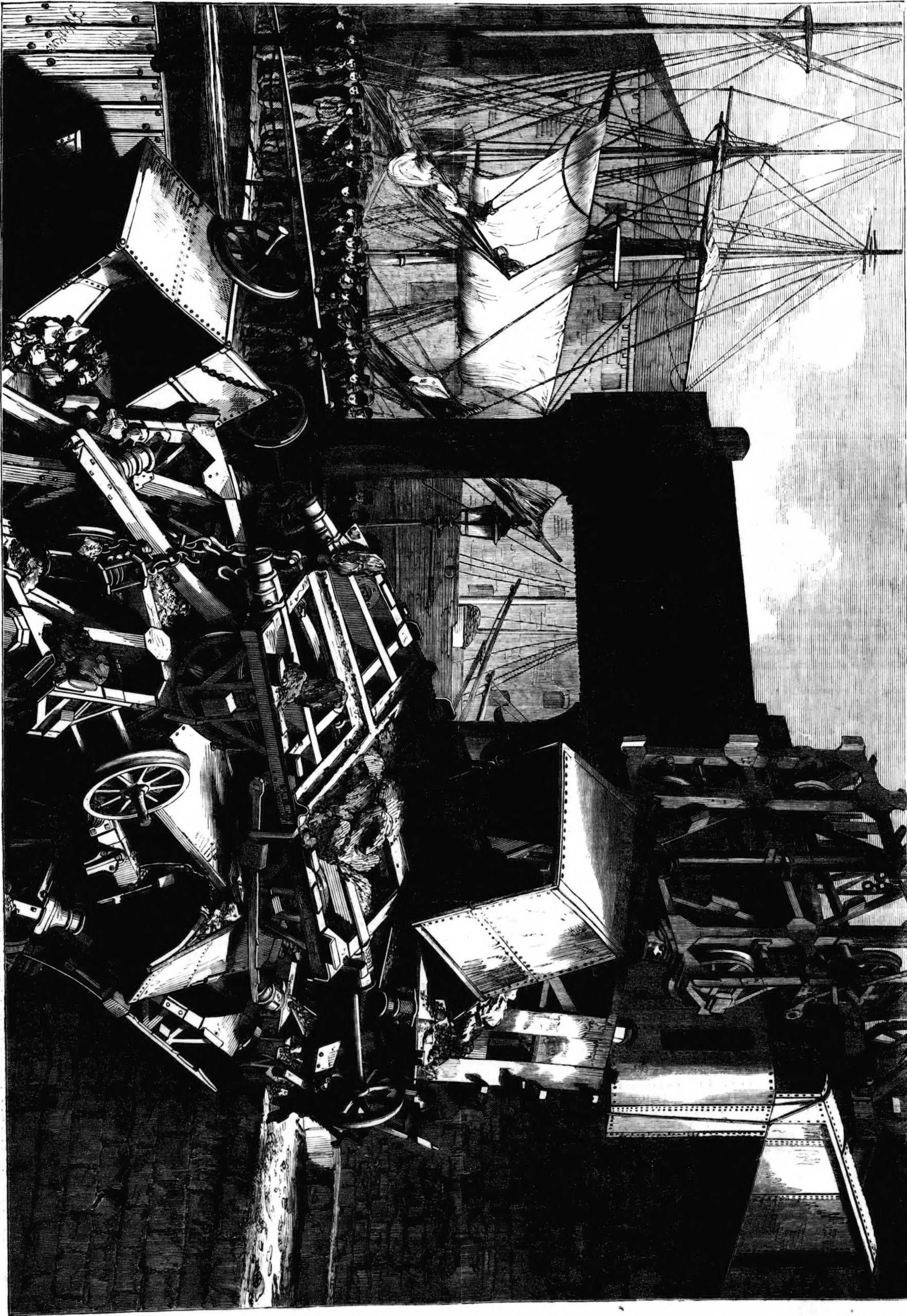
ALEXANDRE DUMAS THE ELDER began a public lecture in Vienna as follows:—"When I was young I had to fight a duel. As a rule, my pulse beats 66. The doctor who went out with me felt it, and found that it beat one pulsation more—67; one pulsation more before a loaded pistol! I have just given my hand to a medical friend, and he reports 77 pulsations. So I fear you ten beats more than powder and ball."



HER MAJESTY'S SHIP BULLDOG BOMBARDING FORT PECKELET, CAPE HAYTIEN.



FIRST-PRIZE CATTLE AT THE SMITHFIELD CLUB SHOW, IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.



THE LATE CATASTROPHE ON THE VALE OF NEATH RAILWAY AT SWANSEA.

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THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER AND SUPPLEMENT

OF THE

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will be issued on SATURDAY next, DEC. 23, price Fourpence Halfpenny, and will contain the following, among other

ENGRAVINGS:

Christmas Eve: Hanging up Holly and Mistletoe. Drawn by J. T. Lucas.
Old Folks at Home and Young Ones Away. Drawn by Florence Claxton.
Christmas at the Zoological Gardens. Drawn by H. S. Melville.
Musical Chairs. Drawn by Adelaide Claxton.
Christmas Eve in the South of France in the Seventeenth Century. Drawn by H. D. Grisct.

La Reueillon. A Christmas Custom in the North of France. Drawn by F. Anderson, from a Sketch by H. D. Grisct.

Invited and Not Invited. Drawn by C. Robinson.

English Sailors Buying a Christmas Dinner at Algiers. Drawn by M. Morgan.

A Page of Rebus for Christmas. Drawn by Warwick Reynolds.

The New King of the Belgians.

The Alhambra Court at the Crystal Palace Illuminated.

Tom Taylor, the Dramatist.

Scene from the New Play, "Henry Dunbar."

The Senses: Feeling. Drawn by Miss Claxton.

The Number will also contain the following

TALES AND POEMS:

Prince Hydrangea. By W. B. Rands.

Colonel Crankett's Singular Experience. By T. W. Robertson.

The Magic Punchbowl. By James Greenwood.

A Story Spilled in the Telling. By T. Archer.

Jack Prout's Christmas Party. By E. Draper.

A Christmas Carol. By T. Hood.

The Soldier Angel. By W. B. Rands.

Other Articles, and all the News of the Week.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1865.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE era of public meetings seems about to revive. It was said some time ago that the Pulpit had given place to the Platform, the Platform to Parliament, and Parliament to the Press, in the formation and expression of public opinion. One of these at least, however—the Platform—appears to be about to resume its old importance. We are having public meetings on all sorts of subjects. Reform, the late occurrences in Jamaica, and other topics, are furnishing themes for platform oratory. It were devoutly to be wished that, with the revival of the passion for speechmaking, there could be blended a little of the spirit of fair-play and tolerance of free discussion. But this does not seem to be characteristic of the times. No one will be heard at a public meeting nowadays unless he belongs to the clique which has got up the gathering and agrees with all the opinions and resolutions prepared beforehand. Two exemplifications of this have occurred in London this week—one was at a meeting on the "Jamaica massacres," to use current phraseology, in Exeter Hall, and the other at a Parliamentary Reform meeting in St. Martin's Hall. At neither of these meetings would the smallest difference with the getters-up of the assemblages be permitted: all opposition was summarily put down by clamour or physical force. We have observed the same thing on other occasions. This is neither fair nor wise. A cause that can't bear free discussion must have something rotten about it; at least, that is the inference that observant and dispassionate men will be apt to draw. It is no doubt necessary for the orderly conducting of a public meeting that a programme of proceedings should be drawn up beforehand; but this programme should be submitted to the free judgment of all assembled, to be affirmed, modified, or rejected, as the persons congregated shall determine. A meeting conducted differently—that is, according to the ordinary fashion—may elicit an expression of the opinion of a clique or a party; but that is not entitled to be called Public Opinion, and the assemblage at which one-sided resolutions are passed has no claim to the denomination of a Public Meeting. We wish those who get up and those who attend so-called public meetings could be got to understand this, and to consent that their resolutions should be freely canvassed by all or anyone who chooses to be present. We should then have something like a fair exposition of current opinion; and the resolutions, memorials, or what not, adopted would carry some weight. As these things are now managed, we secure neither the one nor the other. We have only a farce.

THE JAMAICA INQUIRY.

FIAT JUSTITIA, RUAT CÆLUM! That should be the motto of all who profess to desire a fair, a free, and an impartial investigation of the late events in Jamaica and their causes. But is it? We scarcely think so. The case is judged before it is tried. Governor Eyre and his subordinates are condemned without being heard. A cry was raised for inquiry: that was proper and right; and the Government yielded it. It was demanded that Mr. Eyre should be superseded; the Government have suspended him. But all this does not satisfy

his opponents. They must have him tried—which in their minds appears to mean sentenced—in this country, and at once. That is not possible, and would be unjust if it were. The facts occurred in Jamaica; the witnesses are there; and there the evidence must be collected. Some hundreds—perhaps thousands—of persons must be examined. Can all these be brought to London to give evidence? And who is to pay the "costs" if they are brought here? The very constitution of the commission of inquiry has been condemned before its composition is known. "We won't have the conduct of one governor judged by a coterie of other governors." That cry has been raised on no better ground than that Sir Henry Storks goes out to supersede Governor Eyre pending the inquiry. In the very same breath with which they call for inquiry—thereby confessing ignorance—the enemies of Mr. Eyre condemn him unheard. That is not fair. That is very un-English. We are not the apologists—much less the vindicators—of Governor Eyre; but we don't like to see the very fault committed that is condemned in him. If he has been rash and inconsiderate, let us judge him calmly and dispassionately. If he has violated law and right, don't let us do the same. Let us act judiciously as well as judicially; and when crimes are proved, let the guilty suffer; but not till then. That is all we ask; and that much surely Englishmen will concede. Two blacks don't make a white (we mean no allusion to the negro); and two wrongs can't make a right. The Government has undertaken to institute an inquiry; let us wait and watch how the duty is performed. If badly, there will be ample opportunities to complain.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF PORTUGAL arrived in London on Wednesday. PRINCE CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN left Windsor Castle for the Continent on Wednesday.

SIR HENRY STORKS, Governor of Malta, was on Tuesday gazetted to the temporary governorship of Jamaica, the office to be held by him during her Majesty's pleasure—that is, while the inquiry into the late occurrences in the island is pending.

SIR CHARLES WOOD has almost entirely recovered from his recent accident, and expects soon to return to town in his accustomed health. He is at present at his country seat, Hickleton Hall, but continues to transact the business of his department.

MR. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE has entered on the discharge of his duties as Chief Secretary for Ireland, in the place of Sir Robert Peel.

SIR CHARLES EASTLAKE, who remains at Pisa, is in a very low state. Hardly any hope is entertained of his recovery.

MDNE RISTORI is now at Hanover, where her performances are exceedingly well attended. The Queen has made her a present of a rich bracelet, set with emeralds and pearls and containing a lock of her Majesty's hair.

DR. ROBERT LEE, of Edinburgh, is to be impugned at the next meeting of the presbytery for his use of a service-book in the worship at Old Greyfriars.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between Lady Victoria Campbell, eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Cawdor, and Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Lambton, Scots Fusilier Guards.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ is actively pushing forward his explorations in South America. His party now consists of four grand divisions.

MR. FARNALL, the Poor-Law Commissioner, and Mr. Rawlinson, the Government engineer, whose names are so closely associated with the measures adopted for meeting the distress in the cotton districts, have been appointed Companions of the Bath.

AN IRONPOUNDRY and works for the repair of steam-machinery have been erected at Gibraltar.

AN ALDERMAN at Oxford has been horsewhipped by an undergraduate, whom he had called a "swindler," because he refused to pay his bills; and the latter has been fined 20s. and costs.

THE PASSAGE of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles by night is about to be opened to steamers of all flags and classes.

AN OFFICER, while dancing at a public ball in Vienna, entangled his foot in his partner's crinoline, fell, fractured one leg, and the lady falling upon him fractured the other.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE, so well known as the town house of Lord Palmerston, has just been let to the Naval and Military Club, which at present has premises at 22, Hanover-square. The terms are £3000 a year on lease.

CORNET WATKINS, of the 18th Hussars, has been sentenced to four days' imprisonment, and fined 1200s. (£120), by the High Court at Madras, for assaulting the editor of the *Bangalore Herald*.

THE CIRCASSIAN EMIGRATION COMMISSION at Constantinople has been dissolved. It is therefore expected that the slave trade will now revive.

TURKEY has contracted for a new loan of £6,000,000. The contract has been made with the *Crédit Mobilier* of Paris, and will be issued on the 18th inst. at Constantinople, London, and Paris simultaneously.

THE TOWN OF CHIO, in the island of Solo, has been almost wholly overthrown by an earthquake, the two lighthouses in the port only remaining uninjured. The population, flying from the ruins, has encamped without shelter in the neighbouring fields.

AN ITALIAN COLLECTOR, returning from Egypt, has brought back the statue of no less a personage than Potiphar's wife. An inscription on the base leaves no doubt as to its authenticity. The features are said to be exceedingly ugly.

ROBERT BAIN, a hale man of 107 years of age, is now living at Loches, Scotland. For between forty and fifty years he was a forester in the service of the Lords Kinnaird. His daughter recently died at the age of eighty-three. He is able to shave himself, and can tell a good story of events that occurred nearly a century ago.

THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA are expressing great sympathy with Chili in the difficulties of that little republic with Spain, and at a public meeting they have resolved to open a subscription that they might give a practical character to their sympathy.

IN CHICAGO, a building 80 ft. by 160 ft., five stories high, and weighing 27,000 tons, has recently been raised 2 ft. from its original foundations. It was done by means of 1580 screws, placed underneath the building and turned simultaneously. The work occupied three days.

A MAN was last week found poaching on the estate of W. A. Mackinnon, Esq., of Acrise Park. Having been taken to the mansion and deprived of his bag of game, he was provided with a bountiful repast. When he had done his best to show his appreciation of this kindness, he was warned not to trespass again, and sent about his business.

GENERAL ESPARTERO is now in his seventy-fifth year, but he is hale and strong, with a healthy complexion and an erect bearing; he walks and rides, and is, although residing within the town, frequently out at his farm, making as much interest in his potatoes and cabbages as the hermit of Caperea, to whom the Spaniards are fond of comparing him.

MANY OF THE HOLSTEIN POLITICAL SOCIETIES have sent congratulatory telegrams to Prince Christian of Augustenburg, on his approaching marriage. From Schleswig, where the societies have all been dissolved, the Prince received similar telegrams from many private gentlemen, addressing him in their own names and those of their friends.

M. WALUYEFF, head of the educational department in Poland, held an examination in a Warsaw grammar-school. Among other historical questions, he asked a boy, "Were the Romans a quiet people?" "They were warlike," said the child. "And revolutionary?" added the dignitary; "they offended their Cæsars as the Poles are offending their Cæsars, and that is the reason why they have disappeared from the face of the earth."

THE COMPENSATION to be paid to the Duke of Northumberland for his house and grounds at Charing-cross will probably, it is said, be fixed at £150,000. The amount to be paid to the Duke of Cambridge for Gloucester House, the demolition of which is involved by the proposed widening of Park-lane, is estimated at £65,000.

A PICTURE BY VITTORE CARPACCIO, from the collection of Count Alvide Mocenigo, of Venice, representing the Virgin and Child, with the Doge Giovanni Mocenigo kneeling before them, and holding in his right hand the banner of the Venetian Republic, has just been purchased for the National Gallery. On his right hand side, looking towards the picture, is St. John, and on the left St. Christopher carrying the Saviour. The figures are life-size, and the price \$5,000.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held at Exeter Hall, on Tuesday night, on the subject of the Jamaica disturbances. The meeting was a very noisy one. It was called together by placards announcing that there had been 3000 murders and "eight miles of dead bodies," and the proceedings at the meeting were strongly in favour of the negroes.

THE GRAMMAR-SCHOOL at Aulthurstide, near Broughton-le-Furness, is at present attended by two little girls, about seven, twins; two little boys a few months younger, also twins; and two little boys, about five, twins likewise. They were all born within ten minutes' walk of the school. Such a circumstance in a school of only about forty is, we think, scarcely to be paralleled in any other in the kingdom.

THE REV. SHELLA MARTIN, a coloured clergyman, says he collected 60,000 dols. for the benefit of the American freedmen on his recent mission to England. He says he found much sympathy among prominent Englishmen, but there was a general unwillingness to contribute for fear it might be regarded as an impertinent interference in the domestic concerns of America.

THE CONSTABULARY OF BOSTON, U.S., have prohibited the Monday morning newspapers from printing reports of Sunday evening meetings, as "the preparation of these reports violates the laws forbidding labour on the Sabbath, and they are not works of necessity, mercy, or charity."

A GARDENER in the DEPARTMENT OF THE NORD has discovered a new mode of restoring exhausted asparagus-beds. He spread during the spring 120 lb. of common salt over a piece of ground 30 ft. long by 6 ft. wide. The asparagus plants, though old and exhausted, produced a crop double what might be expected from the youngest and strongest plants. Although salt is dear in France, the gardener got a handsome profit by it. It seems that the middle of March is the best time to employ the salt.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I RAN against my old political gossip the other day in St. James's-square. I had not seen him for several months. Of course he was very full of the events which have occurred since last we met. Death of Lord Palmerston, reconstruction of the Government, difficulties of Earl Russell, Jamaica troubles, and a hundred other matters. On the subject of the reconstruction of the Government he had something to reveal, which is strange if true. "Do you know," said he, "that Earl Russell wanted Stansfeld back again?" "No, I have not heard that," I replied. "Egad! it's true, though; and a letter was written offering Stansfeld his old berth." "How was it, then, the offer was not accepted?" "Well, the letter, though written and copied, was never sent; for Lord Clarendon interposed with the objection that the readmission of Stansfeld would lead to complications in our relations with France." This seemed to me so ridiculous that I exploded into laughter that made the square ring again. It seemed to me so egregiously absurd that Stansfeld at Whitehall, as a Junior Lord of the Admiralty, should be so alarming a portent, "perplexing Monarchs with the fear of change." Blogg, however, stuck to his assertion. "You may laugh," he said, "but the fact is so; and I will bet you a dinner for two that I am right." At this I laughed the more. I am bound, however, to say that Blogg is not the only one who believes this rumour. I have since heard the truth of it asserted by men who are not gossips, like my friend, but grave, solid people, who are by no means credulous. But can it be true? And, if it be, did the French Emperor whisper a hint to Lord Clarendon? or is this strange notion the coinage of Lord Clarendon's own brain? The alleged transaction is so infinitely little that at present I must hesitate to believe it.

I have a lively recollection of a certain Mr. Serjeant Storks who used to go the Norfolk Circuit. He was a small, active, fussy, little man, and had a respectable practice; but was certainly not ranked in the highest class of his profession. He was very fluent, if not eloquent, of speech; examined and cross-examined witnesses with a good deal of lively vigour, but not always with judgment, I thought; and often got up a laugh against those whose evidence he wished to shake, if he could do no more. Whether he is living or not, I do not know. I suspect, though, that he must be dead; for, if my recollection is not at fault, he was a middle-aged man forty years ago, and, moreover, I see that his son is fifty-four years old. This son is Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Knight Storks, who is to sail, on Monday next, to Jamaica to supersede Governor Eyre for a time, and to investigate and unravel, if he can, that dark imbroglio—the Jamaica insurrection business; and it seems to be the general opinion that, if the thing can be done, Sir Henry is the man to do it. But if he has the necessary qualifications—a calm, judicial mind, keen sagacity to discover a clue and hold by it through its tortuous courses, and all the other requisite qualifications for the due performance of the arduous and awfully responsible duties thrust upon him, as all who know him say he has—he cannot have got them from the fussy and somewhat shallow little man whom I used to laugh at as I lounged in the courts forty-five years ago. Perhaps he inherits these qualities from his mother, of whom I know nothing, except that she was a Miss Trundle, daughter of Thomas Trundle, Esq. Sir Henry was educated, I see, at Charterhouse, that nursery of so many famous men. He entered the Army in 1811; served in the 61st, 14th, and 38th Regiments; was Assistant Adjutant-General at the Cape of Good Hope during the Kaffir War, 1846-7; Military Secretary at the Mauritius from 1849 to 1854; commanded the forces in the Bosphorus, at the Dardanelles, and Smyrna during the Russian War; appointed Colonel in the Army in 1845, with local rank of Major-General in Turkey; made a K.C.B., with a pension for distinguished services in the East, in 1857; was Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands from February, 1857, till the cession of these islands to Greece. On his return from this government he was made a G.C.B.; received the rank of full Major-General in 1862; and was made Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Malta, with local rank of Lieutenant-General, November, 1864. This is Sir Henry Storks and his history in skeleton. When a man turns up prominently before the public mind everybody wants to know who and what he is; and to gratify this natural curiosity I have ferreted out these facts. I say ferreted, for though I have a regiment of biographical dictionaries, and peerages, and baronetages, and knightages, and red books and blue books, I could find no notice of this eminent man, until at last, in despair, I referred to "Dod's Peerage," &c. By-the-way, I wonder I did not resort to this first, for this is not the only time that I have gained information there that I could get nowhere else.

From all I can learn the government of Jamaica has been a bad one. Indeed, I believe that since the thing called government was first invented there never has been a civilised country, with a regularly organised Government, so badly governed as this. I will give your readers a few facts to justify this opinion—facts not raked up lately, but long known. The revenue of Jamaica is raised in a great measure by import duties—surely one of the worst methods of raising a revenue that can be devised. Thus, flour is taxed 30 per cent; fish, from 14 to 22; beef, 25; pork, 19; candles, 12; soap, 22; rice 31; tea, 60; ale and beer, 50; and on clothing the duty is 12½ per cent. But we must not measure the increase of the price of an article by the amount of the duty; for it is well known that the increase of the price of an article arising from the levying a tax thereon is generally one fourth more than the duty. This, then, is what the Jamaica Government has done. It has by import duties raised the prices of everything that the negroes eat or wear to a frightful amount. But this is not all. A poor man's donkey is taxed 5s. 6d., and his horse 10s., whereas the rich man's horses, working bonâ fide on his estate, is taxed only 6d. There is also a heavy tax on carts. And, now, what has the Government done with the money? Well, though the State Church comprehends only a small minority of the inhabitants, it receives £30,000, about 10 per cent of the revenue, out of the taxes. Fancy such a thing in England. Reader! imagine seven millions paid out of our taxes to salary the clergy of the Church. But there is something still more extraordinary to my mind; and with this crowning fact I will leave the subject for your readers' meditations. Some years ago it was alleged—whether truly or not I won't say—that there were not enough labourers in the island; and so the Government determined to send for some from India and China. And who do you think was to pay the cost of fetching these labourers over? You would naturally say, those masters who wanted them. But they did not. The cost was paid out of the taxes; and in all about £400,000 has been thus expended. Four hundred thousand pounds spent out of the

taxes paid by the labourers; and what for? Why, to lower the price of their labour. This is burning the candle at both ends with a vengeance—logging the poor labourer on both legs; and then we shriek out, He is idle! he is idle! Do you remember Moore's poem, "The Donkey and his Panniers"? It seems to me wondrously illustrative of this subject:—

A donkey, whose talent for burdens was wondrous,
So much that you'd swear he rejoiced in a load,
One day had to jog under panniers so ponderous
That down the poor donkey fell, smack in the road.

Then there came a consultation as to what was to be done in the matter. One suggested one thing, one another:—

At length a plain rustic, whose wit went so far
As to see other's folly, roared out as he passed,
"Quick! off with his panniers, all dolts as ye are;
Or your prostrate niddy will soon kick his last!"

Chemical science is to supply far more than its ordinary share of amusements for Christmas evening parties. The Pharaoh's serpents have, unfortunately, become too popular; and the deadly sulphocyanide, in penny doses, may now be seen side by side with the carraway comfits in the cheap sweetstuff-shops. The French chemist, M. Barnett, who introduced the serpents, has brought out another chemical firework—to the stars of paradise. If you light them and throw them into the air too quickly, you only have a momentary glimpse of some coloured sparkles; if you keep them too long, you will burn your fingers badly. They are unsafe and very unsatisfactory. The will-o'-the-wisp paper is very pretty and tolerably safe. It consists of paper converted into gun cotton and then treated with salts to colour the fire. The only fault of that sold in the shops is that it explodes too slowly. But the prettiest and safest of all these chemical fireworks is what I will call the drawing-room illumination. It may be seen nightly in the shop window of Mr. Apps, West Strand. A galvanic current is passed through a partially exhausted glass tube, formed into a spiral or other device. The result is a steady, brilliant, coloured light, illuminating the entire length of the tube. It will last for many hours without requiring attention, and may be easily exhibited on a table or a sideboard. It is, however, somewhat expensive. When will some of our chemists bring out the elegant little parlour fireworks common in Japan? They are cheap, easily prepared, and brilliant in effect. They look like a few inches of string. When the end is lit scintillation takes place, and is followed by coloured fire, and miniature rockets and crackers, all above the carpet, and without the slightest danger of injury even to the muslin curtains.

I have received a copy of a very remarkable book, just issued by Mr. Camden Hotten. It is entitled "The Hatchet-throwers," the letterpress being by Mr. James Greenwood, and the illustrations (printed in colours) by M. Ernest Griest. Both author and artist have fully vindicated the propriety of the title given to the book. They have "thrown the hatchet" most vigorously, but withal well and comically. There is no end of extravagance, both in reading and pictures; but, of course, we look for this sort of thing from professed and confessed tellers of—well, "bouncers." The only point with a reader is, is the extravagance well executed? And here it most emphatically is. Who cares to ask if Gulliver always told the truth, or if Munchausen never violated probability? We expect that kind of thing from "hatchet-throwers." But there is in this book a great deal more than mere extravagance. In the literary part we have wit, humour, and admirable descriptive power; in the illustrations, first-rate drawing, fine fancy, and delicate feeling; in both no end of mirth-provoking matter. I have been so pleased and amused with "The Hatchet-Throwers," that I can not resist trenching so far on another department of your paper as to recommend the book to your readers.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

A very interesting little duel is just concluded between an able writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* and another able writer (to whom I have before referred). Mr. Frederic Harrison, whose paper in the *Fortnightly* the *Gazette* criticised in a couple of leading articles. It was upon the trades union question that the discussion was started. Mr. Harrison had objected, in the *Fortnightly*, to the usual phraseology of political economists about the labour market. The labourer, said he, has nothing to sell. Yes, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, he has—his labour is a commodity and he sells that. But the purchaser of the labour has duties to the seller which are outside of the contract. Oh, ho; replies Mr. Harrison, it is a case, then, of *nemo pulsat*, "our crossed swords descend," we are substantially agreed. Just so, says the *Gazette*, in a short note, *embrassons-nous!*

I wish the lovers joy of their reconciliation, but don't in the least understand it. Is the contract between Labour and Capital a contract of hiring or a contract of sale? Is Mr. Harrison of opinion that there ought to exist any, and, if any, what, means of compelling the fulfilment of conditions outside the mere terms of the contract? Or is he merely fighting a battle for the expediency of Trades Unions, just as he might fight a battle for the expediency of the Animals' Friend Society?

The *Victoria Magazine* is inserting, from month to month, some papers about the "Civil and Political Status of Women," which most people will find informing, and which none need fear to read, for they are only informing. They are translated from Laboulaye, and are very interesting. "Trouble at Thornhill," the story in this magazine, is not the least pleasing of those which are now going on number by number. The papers which relate to Mr. Ruskin's last book are singularly fair and appreciative. Generally, indeed, as I have said before, there is no better current criticism than is to be found in this magazine.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

FROM Miss Braddon's powerful novel of "Henry Dunbar; or, The Outcast," a new drama has been concocted, which was produced at the OLYMPIC, on Saturday last, with considerable success. The new piece, which is said to be the work of Mr. Tom Taylor, though by no means a faultless adaptation, is interesting and effective. The playwright who sits down to dramatise a novel generally suffers from an embarrassment of riches: here are so many good things to choose from, that the task of selection is difficult—not to say disagreeable. Sometimes the statue is not to be found inside the block of marble, though this is by no means the case with "Henry Dunbar," which is an excellent drama until the second scene of the fourth act, when the hero, Henry Dunbar, and his daughter Margaret personate two characters, after the manner of Mr. Woodin or Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul in their entertainments. This personation—admirably executed though it be—stops the interest of the piece suddenly and effectually, and the auditor feels that he is no longer witnessing the perilous adventures and agonies of remorse of Joseph Wilmot, alias Henry Dunbar, or the devoted self-sacrifice of his daughter, but that the drama is over, that a farce has begun, and the personators of Dunbar and his daughter are displaying their versatility. The very highest commendation is only the proper due of Mr. Henry Neville for his admirable acting of the false banker. His appearance, manner, intonation, and expression of feature were all that even the authoress of the novel or the adapter of that work could have wished. If some of our Shakespearean tragedians, as they call themselves, would only take a leaf out of Mr. Neville's book, and imitate his quiet, natural, truthful style, what a comfort they would be to themselves and to their audiences. It is almost unnecessary to praise Miss Kate Terry; let it suffice, that as the daughter of the convict-banker she played with the same depth and earnestness, and subdued nervous emotion, that have fixed her in the affections of the London public. Miss Terry is always charming in affliction, because she is a young lady in affliction. She is charming when she is passionate and energetic, because she is womanly and tender in her passion and her energy. Mr. Montagu improves in every fresh part he plays; of which fact his performance of Clement Austin is an agreeable proof. Mr. Soutar exhibits a very pleasant amount of shrewd humour as

the Detective Carter. Mr. Vincent makes a great mistake in his conception and delineation of The Major, who is a sort of compound of Robert Macaire, Montague Tigg, Jeremy Diddler, and Captain Wragge. The Major should be an oily, jocular, blatant, rubicund sort of vagabond; instead of which Mr. Vincent makes him cadaverous, jerky, and spasmodic. This actor is at all times too conscious of his audience and of himself. He makes his points with too evident an appreciation of them. He delivers a smart thing with too much muscularity; and, while fully entering into the spirit of exaggeration, he seems to neglect quite natural humour. Miss Ellen Leigh, who, as Laura Dunbar, made her first appearance before a London audience, made a most favourable impression in a character of minor importance. "Henry Dunbar" is excellently "mounted," and will doubtless enjoy a long run. What a blessing has Miss Braddon been to dramatists and directors!

Last week I forgot to mention that Mr. and Mrs. German Reed and their extraordinary colleague, Mr. John Parry, are again at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul have varied their entertainment at the EGYPTIAN HALL by a new domestic scene, entitled "Ripples on the Lake," in which Mrs. Paulina Clementina Dove (Mrs. Howard Paul), a somewhat sentimental and gushing young married lady, keeps a diary, which, falling by accident under her husband's eye, reveals the state of her feelings. She is too happy, has too little "sensation" in life, too few "ripples on the smooth lake" of her matrimonial serenity. Mr. George Augustus Dove (Mr. Howard Paul) resolves to amend this fault, and reads the lady a lesson that cures her of love of sensation for ever after. I must mention two other additions to the previous programme—Mr. Howard Paul chants a comic legend of Jerusalem, called "Ka-foozle-um;" and Mrs. Howard Paul sings—as she can sing—a new song, with the pastoral title of "White Daisy." The music, which is very charming, is by Mr. James Molloy; and the poetry—for the words are not mere sugary sounds with alternate rhymes—is from the pen of Mr. Tom Hood.

Miss Teresa Furtado has been taking Liverpool by storm. On the occasion of her benefit at the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE the other night the house was as full as it could hold—and fuller; and the audience were as delighted as they were uncomfortable. Miss Furtado and Mr. Toole reappear at the ADELPHI on Monday next.

Mr. Sothern is at Glasgow. He has written a very excellent letter showing up the imposture of spirit-rapping, table-turning, and other so-called spiritual phenomena. When in America Mr. Sothern was considered the most powerful "medium" in the world, the real fact being that he only amused himself at the expense of the designing who wished to deceive the idiotic, and the idiotic who insisted on being deceived by the designing. "Brother Sam" returns to the HAYMARKET on Boxing Night.

IRELAND.

THE FENIAN TRIALS.—Two or three more of the Fenian prisoners have been convicted and sentenced to various terms of penal servitude. The monotony into which the trials were gradually falling was suddenly broken on Monday, and the Court was thrown into a state of lively excitement when the prisoner at the bar, O'Donovan Rosa, insisted on cross-examining the informer Nagle himself, on which his counsel, Mr. Butt and Mr. Dowse, threw up their briefs. The prisoner, it is said, succeeded in tripping Nagle on one or two points; but his questions for the most part were so irrelevant that the Judges told him repeatedly he was making his own case worse, and that he was wasting the time of the Court. The trial was brought to a close on Wednesday, when the jury brought in a verdict of "Guilty" on all the counts. The prisoner protested that the jury was packed and that the Judges were selected to procure convictions. As he had formerly been convicted of the Phoenix conspiracies, in 1859, he was now sentenced to penal servitude for life.

A BREACH-OF-PROMISE CASE.—The trial of an action for breach of promise of marriage was commenced on Monday in the Court of Common Pleas, Dublin, before the Chief Justice and a special jury. The plaintiff is Miss Bowen's Chute, and the defendant is Mr. Blennerhasset, both members of old and respectable families in the county of Kerry. Damages are laid at £4000. The defendant did not deny the promise; but his counsel urged on his behalf that he had entered into a rash engagement, which, as he was without sufficient means, it would have been madness to carry out. His income was nominally £1000 a year, but his property was so much encumbered that he had only a small sum to live on. At the conclusion of the speech for the defence the further hearing of the case was adjourned. On Tuesday the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, and gave her £1000 damages.

SCOTLAND.

POLEMICAL CONTROVERSY.—In his opening address a few days ago to the students of St. Andrew's University, Principal Tulloch expressed his belief that the day was rapidly approaching when the claims of creeds and confessions to hold the place of authority they had done would be keenly canvassed, and he called upon his students to prepare, by private reading and reflection, to study the historical as well as dogmatic bearings of the standards. He told them to regard the confession of faith in its origin and principles as the manifesto of a great religious party, and all such confessions as simply historical monuments marking the tides of religious thought, and which cannot be understood except in connection with the genius and character of the time and of the men who framed them. Dr. Gibson has denounced this address as propounding doctrines which are "subversive of all fixed intelligible authoritative standard either of faith or morals."

IMPROVEMENT OF EDINBURGH.—The newly-elected Lord Provost of Edinburgh (Mr. William Chambers) made a statement to the Town Council, a few days ago, of the results of an inspection he had made of the closes and wynds of the old town since his election to the civic chair a few weeks ago, and of his proposals for the opening up and purifying the densely-populated and poor districts. He proposed, first, that diagonal streets should be formed, cutting across the closes, as, for example, from Netherbow to under the North Bridge, from the top of Niddry-street to the foot of Pleasance, and so forth; also widening St. Mary's wynd and other narrow streets of the lower old town. In the second place, he proposed that there should be broad passages opening from the High-street to the diagonal streets. He did not propose to break the prominent line of houses in the street, but would have communications by archways here and there through them. A third improvement would be to remove half-ruinous tenements and form on their sites open courts paved with flag-stones. A fourth step would be the removal of wooden fronts from the older houses in the closes. Some of these wooden erections were upwards of 300 years old, and were in a very frail condition; several were propped up by temporary beams, and were far from safe. In almost all cases they so overhung the close as to leave only a narrow space at the top for daylight. In the ground floors the dwellings were dark, even at noonday, and the inhabitants might literally be said to live in "the Valley of the Shadow of Death." He had a confident expectation that these and some subsidiary operations would give a new character to the old town without injuring its picturesque appearance. At present the death-rate in the district mentioned was from thirty to thirty-five per 1000 of the population per annum, or nearly double what the rate was elsewhere. In all probability the improvements now suggested would lower the death-rate one third. Dr. Littlejohn, the officer of health, said that the lowering of the death-rate in the old town to twenty-five per 1000 would effect an annual saving of 312 lives. What would be the benefits in a moral and religious point of view he would not stop to particularise. A great deal was said about the amenity of the city; but he could not be diverted from his first object, which was sanitary improvement. Unlike the monstrous misexpenditure on the improvements of 1825, the improvements he now shadowed forth would be of a moderate and not very costly nature. As an addition to the general plan, he would have a new street in lieu of North College-street, at once opening up the Industrial Museum, which had cost Government £50,000, while greatly improving the condition of the district south of the Cowgate. But, while they were destroying, it was pretty certain they must also build, and they must have due regard to the recent humane statute which prohibited a general destruction of dwellings for railway or other purposes unless new houses be erected for the dispossessed inhabitants. His Lordship then sketched his financial plan—namely, the purchase of old and building of new houses by the public, or by private persons, or associations going in with the scheme, and by a rate of a few pence per pound, extending over a series of six or seven years. The new houses to be erected must be neither of grand nor costly architecture, but houses for the middle and working classes, of from £6 to £12 or £15 annual rent. He proposed to procure statutory authority in the Session of 1866-7-1. To prevent the overcrowding of dwellings; 2, to exclude cowhouses from any part of the city, except under certain regulations and by license of the magistrates; 3, to give the Town Council the entire charge of all streets, roads, and pavements within the bounds of the municipality; and 4, to restrain speculators from running up insufficient buildings. His Lordship's scheme, which was very favourably received by the council, was remitted to a committee, with powers to mature plans, and submit the whole matter, at as early a date as possible, to the public consideration.

THE PROVINCES.

DAMAGE TO THE WOLF ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.—The Wolf Rock Lighthouse is built up as far as four courses of granite blocks will raise it; but these four only just elevate the structure above the natural hollow, somewhat enlarged by blasting and quarrying, in the rock itself. Thirty-two stones of the fifth course were laid, every stone joggled and dovetailed to its neighbours, laterally and vertically, secured in its place by cement as hard as iron, and bolted to the course below by powerful metal bars. This fifth course was just a little ledge, which offered some opposition to the sea, in addition to the rock itself, on which the surges have beat in many a hoarse, wolfish strain, for ages. The sea, moved to fury by the recent gales, has swept away every stone of the fifth course, and in a day the summer's work of sixty men is undone. The metal bars still stand up from the fourth course—some very much bent, others nearly upright; showing the violent watery upheaval which rent three-ton stones from their beds. Whether the sheer, terrific force of the unaided sea did this; whether some of the stones, quarried from the adamantine Wolf Rock and thrown into comparatively shallow water, were raised from the vasty deep and hurled against the finely-worked and compact granite rampart; whether one more hapless vessel was dashed on the place which, years hence, would with its welcome light have warned her from her peril, and a single block first going, the others followed, will be matter of conjecture. The public, more especially its seafaring members, will learn with regret that the labour of one favourable season, valued at £1500, is swept into forty or forty-five fathoms water, and that the work of humanity is delayed—not delayed, however, should fine weather permit, a minute longer than can possibly be helped.

GROSS OUTRAGE.—We have to lay before our readers the facts connected with one of the most scandalous outrages of justice which has ever been recorded by us, or, we think, any other journal. A few evenings ago a farm labourer, who had just engaged himself to an employer, was proceeding from Thirsk to the residence of the gentleman who had hired him. A short distance from the town he met Mr. Lloyd, chairman of the Thirsk petty sessions, who was on horseback, and, in accordance with the custom of persons of his class, he touched his cap and said "Good-night, Sir!" Mr. Lloyd "rode at" the lad, and the offender endeavoured to escape from the violence which was evidently about to be offered to him. The boy scrambled through the hedge and beat a retreat, having no idea of the cause of a furious onslaught in return for his courtesy, and Mr. Lloyd dismounted and followed for some distance, at length overtaking him. In order to protect himself the youth sought the shelter of a bush; but this was of little avail against his aggressor, who applied a loaded whip to his head and shoulders, and flung the poor fellow in a shocking manner. The lad's cries of "Murder!" brought assistance, and two persons residing in the neighbourhood came upon the scene. On their arrival Mr. Lloyd accused the boy of begging, and requested their assistance in taking him to Bridewell, and the four persons proceeded to Thirsk, where he was, after a short delay, formally charged with the offence before Mr. Bell, another magistrate, the doors of the court being closed. Here Mr. Lloyd had the audacity to attempt to justify the savage attack of which his victim bore such evident marks about his head and body, but the result was an almost immediate dismissal of the prisoner, and the indignation of the inhabitants of the town was such that Mr. Lloyd dared not leave the courthouse for a considerable time. The master of the boy happened to be in Thirsk, and was called as a witness, and the circumstances connected with the boy's recent engagement, and the fact of his having just parted from his employer, from whose house he was but a short distance when the attack was made upon him, render it extremely improbable that he should have solicited aid. The boy has been beaten to such an extent that, if his life is not placed in danger, he has been made almost helpless. He is fearfully bruised, and has been under medical treatment ever since. The inhabitants of Thirsk are, we are informed, about to take a step which will, if carried out, have the effect of vindicating the character of the Thirsk magistrates, and we trust that it may also be the means of restoring confidence in those to whom their liberties are entrusted, and at the same time satisfy the demands of outraged decency.—*Richmond and Ripon Chronicle*.

THE NEW FIRE BRIGADE FOR LONDON.

ON the 1st of next month this new force, for the better protection of London and its nine hundred millions of property, under the management of the Board of Works, comes into operation, although it will probably not be completed in its establishment for some time after, owing to the delay each measure in the bill has met with in discussion at the Board of Works.

It is to take the title of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and will not only embody the whole of the present force and engines of the London fire establishment, but be doubly strengthened to render it efficient for all purposes. The plan decided on is that of Captain Shaw, who has been appointed its chief. The force will consist of chief and 3500 officers and men, four steam floating-engines, four large land steamers, twenty-seven small land steamers, thirty-seven large manual engines, with horses, drivers, &c. These to be distributed among thirty-three large and fifty-six small fire stations, protecting an area of about 117 square miles. Compared with the present fire brigade, the increase is seventy-two additional stations, 219 extra firemen, two large floating and two large land steamers, twenty-one small land steamers and sixty-one manual engines.

The cost of its maintenance is not to exceed £50,000 per annum. This will be contributed partly by a public rate of 1/4 in the pound; £10,000 contributed by the various metropolitan fire insurance companies; and £10,000 from the Government. With respect to the districts, it is arranged that there is to be no large amount of property situate from any powerful station. In the first place, the public property situate on the banks of the Thames—the victualling yard and dockyard at Deptford; the Tower, with its military stores; Custom House, Somerset House, the India store department, the buildings in Whitehall, the Houses of Parliament, the public clothing stores, Greenwich and Chelsea Hospitals, and the adjacent barracks—will be all within the reach of the river steam floating-engines, which will be powerful enough to grapple with the heaviest conflagration. New land stations are to be established at Woolwich, Greenwich, near the British Museum, at Temple-bar, near St. James's Palace, Marlborough House, War Office, Pall-mall, close to the Houses of Parliament, at Piccadilly, in the neighbourhood of Buckingham Palace, near Kensington Museum, and at Chelsea, thereby affording great additional security to the whole of the national property, as well as to personal property, in the whole of these quarters.

The force will be divided into four districts—namely, as follows:—District A will include Westminster, Kentish Town, Marylebone, Chelsea, Hammersmith, Fulham, Harrow-road, St. John's-wood, and Hampstead. District B, the west end of City, I-lington, Tottenham-court-road, Holborn, Euston-square, St. Pancras, Somers Town, Pentonville, Clerkenwell, and Upper Holloway.

District C, the eastern end of London Docks, Millwall, Hackney, Bow, Bishopsgate, Shoreditch, and Bethnal-green.

District D, Southwark, Rotherhithe, Greenwich, Woolwich, Camberwell, Lewisham, Deptford, Peckham, Forest-hill, Brixton, Wandsworth, and Lambeth: the steam-floating stations on the river at Westminster (Southwark Bridge), Rotherhithe, and Limekiln Dock.

The whole of the chief land stations are to be connected with telegraphic communication. The uniform will correspond with that worn by the present brigade; brass helmets, however, are to be worn in the place of the leather helmet. The brass helmets are similar to those worn by the Pompier and Sapeurs in Paris. They are somewhat heavier, but are capable of resisting greater heat; whereas the old leather helmet has been known to curl up off a man's head by coming in contact with intense heat at a fire.

The Act for the establishment repeals "all rewards for fires or chimneys to firemen and others;" but it does not affect the penalties incurred by parties having their chimneys on fire—such rewards to be paid to the general fund for the maintenance of the brigade. The return of fire-rewards paid by the various parishes in London in 1864 amounted to upwards of £3000. The 30th section of the Act contains an enactment that, where the fire brigade is employed beyond the limits of the metropolis for the purpose of extinguishing fire, the owners of the property are liable for all expenses, and, in case of refusal, to be summarily dealt with by two justices. The 12th section gives powers to the brigade in respect to breaking into and taking possession of any premises to pull down for the purpose of putting an end to a fire. All volunteer fire brigades that attend fires are to place themselves under command of the chief or other officer of the brigade.

There are nearly 500 parish engines in the metropolis, but not more than twenty are considered to be efficient to be accepted in the new force.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.—On Tuesday evening a meeting of a somewhat miscellaneous character was held at St. Martin's Hall, to consider the question of a reform of the House of Commons. The large hall was densely crowded. Mr. Edmund Beales was called to the chair, and on the platform were Mr. G. C. Nicolay, Mr. J. Baxter Langley, Mr. J. R. Taylor, &c. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, remarked upon the objections which had been urged in the last Parliament against any extension of the franchise, and expressed his opinion that those objections might now be dismissed for ever. Resolutions in favour of universal suffrage and vote by ballot were adopted, and it was agreed that a deputation should wait upon Earl Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to present to them a memorial on the subject. Several persons attempted to address the meeting and to express views in favour of the "points of the charter," but they were refused a hearing, and some of them were expelled from the meeting by force. This part of the proceedings caused a great disturbance.—A great reform meeting was held at Halifax on Monday night. Mr. Stanfield and Sir F. Crossley delivered speeches, the former emphatically protesting against handing over the question to a Royal Commission. A memorial urging Earl Russell to introduce a reform bill in the next Session was adopted.—There was a great reform meeting at Birmingham on Wednesday evening, over which the Mayor of that town presided. Mr. Scholefield, one of the members for the place, was absent through illness. Mr. Bright was, however, there, and made a vigorous speech. He took Sir John Pakington and Mr. Adesley to task for some of their recent utterances, and advised them to learn some wisdom from history. He next proceeded to speak of the coming reform bill, which would, he expected, be based on the bill of 1860. He was most enthusiastically cheered.



PRIZE CATTLE AND DOGS AT THE BIRMINGHAM CHRISTMAS SHOW.



PRIZE POULTRY AT THE BIRMINGHAM CHRISTMAS SHOW.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE, POULTRY, AND DOG SHOWS.

CHRISTMAS comes as usual; but never before were the ministers to his pleasure less disposed to make merry over their oxen and fatlings honoured with cups and prizes in the great spectacles of the season. Smitten with dismay at the sinking of thousands of animals in swift corruption before the pestilence, at the mournful precautionary slaughter in many a desolated foldyard, at vain measures of immunity from the touch of an inscurable enemy travelling with horrible subtlety, it may be on the claw of a wild bird, the sacker of a tiny insect, or the fatal finger of the very guardian inspector of herds, our agriculturists congregate in fear and trembling; and only after solemn debate do they dare to hold even an exhibition of cattle sent from healthy yard and byre and destined to the posthumous glories of the butcher's holly-decked stall.

CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS.

Notwithstanding the fears of infection, however, large numbers of fat cattle were sent to the Birmingham show last week, though the judges had less to do than at the exhibition of 1864. The entries were as follow:—Cattle, 135; sheep, 90; pigs, 71; roots, 110; corn, 45; poultry, 1675; pigeons, 331: total, 2457.

There was a good average supply throughout the show, the poultry and pigeons more than maintaining their ground when compared with any recent year. As regards cattle, respecting the contributions of which much anxiety and uncertainty had been expressed, though the entries stand very fairly, the number actually in the hall was only eighty-two. The rinderpest had therefore caused a falling off of fifty-three, which is less than some people were inclined to expect.

The number of Herefords was not large, but it was a very good class. The shorthorn oxen or steers exceeding three years and three months, shown in class 5, were up to any previous show. Mr. Rowland Wood, of Clapton, near Thrapstone, took every possible prize. Class 6, for shorthorn steers not exceeding three years and three months, was a good average. The Devons were few in number, but the animals good.

The show of sheep was excellent, but the Shropshires unquestionably carried off the palm. The extra prize of ten guineas, offered by Mr. Davenport Bromley, M.P., for the best pen of long-wooled sheep, and the extra prize offered by the linen and woollen drapers of Birmingham, were both awarded to Mr. John Boast, of New Dalton, Driffield. The twenty-guinea prize, offered by Mr. Henry Wiggin, the late Mayor of Birmingham, for the best pen of five shearing Shropshire wethers, was awarded to Mr. Joseph Beach, of the Hattons, Brewood. The silver cup extra prize, value ten guineas, offered by Mr. Newdegate, M.P., for the best pen of Shropshire sheep, was awarded to Mr. Henry Smith, of Sutton Maddock, Shifnal; and the extra prize of ten guineas, offered by Messrs. Hodgson and Baldwin for the best pen of South or other Down sheep, was awarded to the Earl of Radnor. The first prize for Shropshire ewes was awarded to the Hon. Bailly Lawley.

Of pigs there were twenty less entries than at the last show; the pens of three fat pigs were hardly as well up as usual; the cup was won by Mr. Stearn. The judges recommend that in future all pigs painted with grease and lampblack shall be disqualified. In the other good classes of fat pigs Major-General Hood, Mr. Mangles, Mr. Crisp, Mr. Stearn, and Mr. William Smith won the prizes. The breeding classes were magnificent, Mr. Joseph Smith's silver cup Berkshires being considered the most perfect ever seen. A magnificent pen of pigs shown by Mr. Allender was—like several others—disqualified by Professor Gamgee, on the ground that the state of dentition proved the animals to be older than certified in the entry. The exhibitor protested that not only his character but also his exact system of management forbid the possibility of any discrepancy of the sort; while, on the other hand, the professor would not admit that science has made another mistake, although the mouths of pigs at the particular age in question (between three and six months) are less to be depended on than at any other time.

POULTRY AND PIGEONS.

The entries of poultry numbered 1676, or one more than last year, and of pigeons 331, or thirty-one more than last year. Admiral Hornby was again the great winner, with magnificent coloured Dorkings, with Lady Holmesdale and Mrs. Arkwright following suit. Mr. Lane was great with Spanish. Mr. Stretch, Mr. Nelson, and Captain Heaton were winners with Cochins. Mr. Statter and Mr. Pares took honours with Brahmas. Mr. Blinkhorn and Mrs. Hart won with that singular and valuable breed the Creve-Cœur. This fowl is well known to frequenters of exhibitions by its crest of feathers, with a duplicate horned comb in front, its black plumage and dark blue legs, and is recommended as a prolific laying breed; good also for the table, the pullets said to outwield the cockerels, and attaining great dimensions at a wonderfully early age. The hens do not sit. The Hamburg classes were very fine. In silver Polish the chief prizes were carried off by Mr. G. C. Adkins. The game classes were wonderful for equality of excellence, Mr. Scrimminger, Mr. Gamon, Mr. Billing, Sir H. George Gore, &c., being chief winners. In the class of "any other distinct variety," the National Poultry Company (of Bromley, Kent) won with a pen of the La Fliche breed.

The La Fliche resembles the Spanish fowl, in having jet-black plumage, white faces, and lead-coloured legs; the comb is a peculiarly fantastic ornament, two horns bending forward, with a third horn on the back, said to liken the bird to a rhinoceros. They are the largest of French breeds, the weight attained by fat chickens being 8 lb. to 10 lb.; the skin is particularly white and transparent, and the flesh of exquisite flavour. However, they cannot boast of very early maturity; they lay an abundance of eggs, but are bad sitters. The company also showed some specimens of the celebrated Houdan breed, by which the French henwives make money; it is a full-bodied, short-legged fowl, five-clawed like a Dorking, its plumage a spangled black and white, the face bearded and whiskered in droll style, a topping of speckled feathers bending backward, with a curious comb before it of triple form; the two outer spikes opening like a book, showing a strawberry or nut-shaped spike between them; a detached spike, like a pea, grows above the beak. It is a magnificent sort for the table and for egg-laying too, fattened chickens weighing 7 lb. or 8 lb.; but the hens are poor hatchers.

The game bantams made wonderful classes, and some most superb gold-laced beauties were shown. The ducks were astonishing this year, Mrs. Seamons's Aylesburys weighing 30 lb. the three birds, that is, 3 lb. over the heaviest of last year—a result never before attained.

Mr. Statter's rovers weighed 26 lb. Mrs. Seamons won the first prize for a white goose and gander, weighing 58 lb., and Mr. F. K. Fowler took first prize for a white goose and gander of 1865, weighing 36 lb. Mr. Ferguson Blair's grey goose and gander weighed 56 lb.; Mr. Fowlers, 52 lb. Mr. F. Blair's prize turkey cock and hen weighed 47 lb.; Mr. Wright's two turkeys of 1865 weighed 40 lb.

DOGS.

A dog show formed part of the sights to be seen on the occasion—Curzon Hall, in which the animals were located, was built especially for their accommodation and comfort. The first stone was laid in July last, and a structure, second to none in the kingdom for this particular purpose, has been erected. As to this year's exhibition, there can be no doubt whatever that it was, upon the whole, an advance upon any other held in Birmingham. The entries exceeded by eighty-three the highest number ever obtained. This was only the seventh anniversary of the holding of the show, and from ninety, the number of dogs exhibited in the first year, it has now gone up to 781. Last year there were 701, which showed an increase of sixty-two over 1863. All the various species of dogs were represented. Some of the most remarkable specimens are shown in our Engraving.

The following is a list of the prize birds shown in our Engraving: No. 1. Jacobins (any colour)—First prize, £2. 2. Braham Pouter—First prize, £2. 3. Carrier Cocks (black)—First prize, £2. 4. Pouter Hen (red or blue)—First prize, £2. 5. Magpies (black)—First prize, £2. 6. Cochins (white)—chickens of 1865—First prize, £4. 7. Fantails (white)—

First Prize, £2. 8. Polish Fowl (black, with white crests)—First prize, £3. 9. La Fliche—First prize, £3. 10. Polish Fowl (golden)—First prize, £3. 11. Game (black-breasted reds)—First prize, £3, and silver cup. 12. Creve-Cœur—First prize, £2. 13. Game (white and pils, duckwings, and other varieties, except reds)—First prize, £3. 14. Houdan Hen, five-toed. 15. Turkeys—First prize, £3. 16. Geese (grey and mottled)—First prize, £3. 17. Geese (white)—First prize, £2. 18. Bantams (silver laced)—First prize, £3. 19. Bantams (white, clean-legged)—First prize, £3. Bantam (black)—First prize.

AFFAIRS OF JAMAICA.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The *Jamaica Guardian* gives the following as a draught of the proposed new Constitution for the island:—

1. That there should be one Chamber.
2. That such Chamber should be composed partly of the nominees of the Crown and partly of members elected.
3. That the elections should be made for counties in equal proportions.
4. That the qualification of members should be raised.
5. That the franchise should be raised.
6. That it should be lawful for her Majesty to appoint two Commissioners from England to act in lieu of an Executive Committee.
7. That no person, except one to be nominated by the Governor, should be nominated or elected who held any office of emolument payable out of the public taxes.

The *Guardian* says that these principles were eventually submitted to a large number of members and acceded to. The Government would introduce amendments to their bill in order to carry out these principles.

A bill to regulate places of public worship, abounding in pains and penalties, was before the House of Assembly of Jamaica, and was causing considerable excitement among the Dissenters. The *Jamaica Guardian* says:—

It is anticipated that on the bill becoming law (should it become so) the action will be unanimous throughout the island, and every Dissenting chapel and Sunday and day school will be closed in obedience to it, and the whole responsibility will be thrown on the Government, without whose sanction the measure cannot become law, while several of the most effective speakers from each denomination will be prepared to proceed to England and denounce the interference with religious liberty throughout the length and breadth of the land.

A bill to provide for the expenses of extinguishing the rebellion had been discussed in the House of Assembly and agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

A very stringent alien bill had also occupied the House of Assembly.

DEPUTATION TO MR. CARDWELL.

On Saturday last, the 9th inst., a deputation from the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society waited upon the Right Hon. E. Cardwell to present a memorial on the subject of the insurrection in Jamaica. Earl Russell had appointed to receive the deputation jointly with Mr. Cardwell, at his Lordship's official residence in Downing street, but in consequence of indisposition he was unable to do so. The deputation was received in Earl Russell's room. The deputation, which included several members of Parliament, was introduced by Mr. Samuel Gurney, M.P., president of the Anti-Slavery Society. Mr. Chamerovzow, secretary of the society, read the memorial.

This document states that at a meeting held at the offices of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, on Friday, the 24th of November, consisting of members of the committee, of gentlemen connected with various missionary associations, and of others interested in the anti-slavery cause, especially convened to take into consideration the circumstances of the recent riot in Jamaica and the measures adopted for its suppression, a resolution was unanimously passed:—"That a deputation be appointed to wait upon the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to urge on the Government the importance of their taking immediate steps for an impartial and a searching inquiry into the deplorable events which have recently occurred in Jamaica, and the causes which have occasioned them." The memorial goes on to say that the committee have been most painfully impressed with the narrative of the alleged insurrection, as set forth in the despatch of Lieutenant-Governor Eyre, which appeared to them not to bear out the assumption of a preconcerted movement among the negroes. After narrating the circumstances which led to the assemblage in the Courthouse square on the day of the riot, the committee condemn the subsequent outrages by the infuriated populace, but affirm that the firing into the mob by the volunteers was a rash and unwarrantable act, involving the innocent with the guilty. The committee also assert that the proclamation of martial law and the indiscriminate massacre of the coloured people by the soldiers, sailors, and the Maroons, when all serious apprehension of further disturbances had ceased, were proceedings deserving the strongest reprobation. They emphatically question the competency of a drum-head court-martial, or of any more regularly constituted military tribunal, to try Mr. Gordon for a civil offence, alleged, moreover, to have been committed antecedent to the proclamation of martial law, and not within the proclaimed district. While they are prepared to believe in the existence of great dissatisfaction among the people of Jamaica, owing to the maladministration of justice, the numerous vexations to which they are subjected, the excessive taxation which burdens them, and the severe privations they have undergone, through the failure of their provision crops and the curtailment of estate cultivation—the result of a two-years' drought—they are not prepared to admit that the emancipated classes are disloyal, still less that there has been produced any evidence of the existence of a wide-spread conspiracy to rebel against the Queen's authority, to massacre the white and the brown inhabitants, and to establish themselves as an independent people. The general condition of the island they believe to have long been unsatisfactory; but they entertain the conviction that under a wise and just Government its resources might be developed to an almost unlimited extent, and its population rendered prosperous and happy. Mr. Chamerovzow, after reading the memorial, stated that on the preceding evening a special meeting of the committee had been held, when it was judged expedient to consider an appendix, a copy of which was forwarded to Earl Russell, and which he also read:—"It is stated as a reason for making an addition to the memorial that since it had been adopted the circumstances of the case appeared to render it desirable to seek an interview with Earl Russell as the head of her Majesty's Government. The committee, in the appendix, say that the Government would be giving only an earnest of its intention to meet the exigencies of the case by immediately recalling Lieutenant-Governor Eyre, in order to facilitate the searching investigation suggested; and by suspending from the exercise of their functions all the officers who have been concerned in these transactions. They pray that a Bill of Indemnity presented to the Legislature of Jamaica under present circumstances may not receive the sanction of the Crown, and most respectfully urge that the public anxiously await the production of evidence, as follows:—1. In the case of alleged contempt of court by the man Geoghan, on the 7th of October last, which led to his flight into the Courthouse-square at Morant Bay, his attempted capture by the police, and his rescue by certain parties outside. 2. In the case of trespass, "Anderson v. Dick," tried on the following Monday, the 9th, and as to the circumstances under which the defendant appealed against the decision of the Court. 3. In the matter of "The Crown against Paul Bogle, and others," for the rescue, as alleged, of the man Geoghan. 4. The evidence establishing the truth of the assertion by Lieutenant-Governor Eyre that there existed a wide-spread conspiracy of the blacks to rise against the white and coloured population, to overthrow the Government, and to take the lives and property of the whites. 5. The evidence upon which Lieutenant-Governor Eyre alleges that the riot at Morant Bay was a premature outbreak of the conspiracy aforesaid. 6. The names of the parties implicated, and of the witnesses testifying against them. 7. The evidence upon which Lieutenant-Governor Eyre asserts, in his speech to the Legislature, that there is now a wide-spread and deeply-rooted spirit of disaffection, and a daring and determined intention to make Jamaica a second Hayti. 8. A list of the persons who have been executed or flogged by sentence of court-martial, and the evidence upon which each was convicted. 9. A list of the total number of persons flogged without any trial. 10. The constitution of the several courts-martial, and a statement of the time occupied in the investigation of each case. 11. A statement setting forth the number of dwelling-houses burnt or otherwise destroyed by the military, the militia, and the Maroons. 12. A copy of the instructions, if any, given to the Maroons, and a statement of the length of time they were left loose upon the people. 13. A list of the total number of white persons killed or injured by the alleged "rebels." 14. The evidence upon which Lieutenant-Governor Eyre ordered the arrest of the late G. W. Gordon and his deportation into a proclaimed district. 15. The evidence which was taken at his trial and the circumstances under which he was put to death. They submit that the production of evidence upon all these points is indispensable to meet the requirements of justice, and they trust that her Majesty's Government will forthwith take the necessary steps to procure it.

Several members of the deputation having addressed the right hon. gentleman,

Mr. Cardwell said he was exceedingly sorry that indisposition had prevented Earl Russell from being present to receive the deputation. If he could have been present he would have told them, as he (Mr. Cardwell) now told them, that no words could express the pain and anxiety which the consideration of this subject had given to him and to every member of his Government. The request of the deputation was that Government should take "immediate steps for an impartial and a searching inquiry into the deplorable events which have recently occurred in Jamaica, and the causes

which have occasioned them" (Hear). Her Majesty's Government had anticipated that request. They had determined that there should be forthwith a full, an impartial, and an independent inquiry. The arrangements for conducting that inquiry had already made some progress. They would be completed with as little delay as was compatible with their satisfactory completion. He hoped that his information respecting the progress that was being made in them would go to Jamaica by the very next mail. (Hear, hear). It was the object of the Government that nothing should be left undone that was calculated to secure the most complete and perfect knowledge upon the whole subject. When the inquiry was over, the Government would not be found disposed to palliate or excuse anything that was deserving of reprobation. In the mean time, he was sure the deputation would feel the necessity of saying nothing, and even of thinking nothing, which was incompatible with the freedom and fairness of that inquiry. (Hear, hear). He wished to say, with regard to Governor Eyre, that gentleman was not known personally to him. He was known to him only by his reputation, which had always been that of a man of courage and humanity. If he might judge of the distress which the receipt of the intelligence from Jamaica inflicted upon a person in his (Mr. Cardwell's) position, what must he think of a person who found himself placed in the position in colony in which Governor Eyre had been placed? Whatever the deputation might think, and whatever their feelings might be upon the other parts of his conduct, they must feel the deepest sympathy for any man placed in that position. They must feel that if the disturbance that took place had not been immediately brought to a close, disastrous consequences of the worst kind might have followed ("No, no!" and a cry of "Question!"). They had come to ask for a fair inquiry. He trusted that the spirit of fairness would characterise the conduct of all who were present. He felt it to be his bounden duty, after listening to so many remarks respecting Governor Eyre, to say that which he had just said (Hear, hear). He believed that Governor Eyre himself would be the first person to welcome the opportunity of such an inquiry as was asked for. He (Mr. Cardwell) was desirous that the inquiry should be full and complete, and by the result of that inquiry his conduct, for one, should be guided.

In reply to a question, Mr. Cardwell said that he had been in correspondence with Governor Eyre upon the subject of Jamaica during the whole current year. That correspondence was already passing through the press for the purpose of being laid before Parliament at its meeting.

DEPUTATION TO EARL RUSSELL.

On Tuesday a deputation, appointed at a meeting of the men of South Lambeth held on the 1st inst. at Lambeth Baths, waited, by appointment, on Earl Russell, at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, in Downing-street, to present the memorial agreed to on that occasion. Several deputations from the provinces on the same subject were received by the Premier along with that from Lambeth. After the reading of the several memorials, Earl Russell said:—

I receive these memorials, which refer to a subject which has caused the Government the deepest pain on very many accounts. It is painful to think of the state of society in Jamaica. Considering how long it is since the abolition of slavery took place, it was to be hoped that the condition of society there would have by this time become one of harmony and good feeling between the different races, and it is deeply to be regretted that it should still be one of so much ill-will, complaint, and difficulty on the one side, and of complaint, discontent, and dissipation on the other. But what has occurred lately, I repeat, has affected the Government with very great pain, and I cannot wonder at the impression that has been made generally in the minds of the people of England, and upon the meetings and bodies whence these memorials have emanated. It has been said, and fairly said, that there is no wish to prejudge Governor Eyre. That is a proper and just feeling, and it is the general feeling of the public it is still more the duty of the Government not to prejudge Governor Eyre. With that view, it is necessary that we should have an impartial inquiry, and that proper persons should be selected to conduct it, which is a matter of no small difficulty. It has been stated by several gentlemen that in their opinion it is quite consistent with not prejudging Governor Eyre that he should not hold authority in Jamaica while the inquiry is pending (Hear, hear). I believe on his own part that there is no wish to continue to hold that authority pending the inquiry, and it is perfectly consistent with his not holding such authority that at the end, if the circumstances appear to justify it, he should go forth justified from that inquiry; but it is certainly not the intention of the Government that, during the continuance of the commission in Jamaica, which may have much to inquire into, many facts to elucidate, and much evidence to bring forward, Governor Eyre should hold his authority. Let me repeat again what has been said by several gentlemen, that while I say this we do consider that it is quite consistent with withholding our judgment until we have the whole of the facts before us. Now, with regard to the rest, I should be very unwilling to give an opinion at present on many of the circumstances—circumstances which have struck the Government of the country, as you may be sure they would do, very much as they have struck the subjects of her Majesty in general—at the same time, with regard to certain parts of the case to which I will allude, there has been a misapprehension in the public mind as to, for instance, whether there was that great and general conspiracy which Governor Eyre speaks of—whether there were facts to prove such conspiracy. Upon that question I am not going to give any opinion; but, as to the first outbreak, I must say that it is hardly of that character which is described in one of these memorials, in which it is inferred that a crowd—a peaceable crowd—assembled in a yard near a Courthouse, were fired upon by certain persons without any provocation whatever. The official documents which we have received, though wanting in many of the facts and details, are sufficiently voluminous, and were written, not by Governor Eyre, but by those who furnished the account of what took place to Governor Eyre, as you will see the matter is made sufficiently grave. [The noble Earl then read extracts from the already published letters addressed to the Governor by Captain Down and the officials in Jamaica, describing the outbreak and the state of the island, the rescue of Bogle, the seizure of the police sent to apprehend him, and the alternative given them of joining the blacks against the whites or death, the attack on the Courthouse and the murder of the custos and the other persons who attempted to escape, and proceeded:]—All these tend to show that it was not a peaceable crowd which the volunteers fired into without provocation, as some of the memorials seem to infer. It might have been like a mob here, where stones were thrown and riot took place. It might have been unwise or not to order the volunteers to fire, but that does not appear. The whole matter, however, is an exceedingly painful, and no wonder that the letters written by some subalterns in a tone of unbecoming levity in regard to these events have shocked the good feeling of everyone who has read them. But, however much we may lament what has taken place, we may at the same time hope that—the state of society in Jamaica having been so unsatisfactory for so many years, and so many complaints having been constantly made, just complaints, perhaps, and in other respects great misunderstandings having existed—out of these dreadful occurrences we shall find means to see our way to new measures that shall make that island less the scene of discontent and conflict, and substitute harmony and good-will. In that case we may yet anticipate good results even out of those dreadful occurrences. The Government have every disposition, both to act justly with regard to all whose conduct might be inquired into, and also to look into the whole state of the island; and we hope that, aided by the labours of the various Christian missions, the London Missionary Society, and others who have for many years exerted themselves—I am sure with a view to establishing Christianity and humanity in the island—our efforts will be so far crowned with success that we shall not witness such lamentable results again.

THE JAMAICA INSURRECTION.—We have said enough in favour of the interests of humanity in connection with Jamaica to entitle us to speak strongly in favour of the interests of justice towards Governor Eyre. A cry is being made against him and the other authorities of Jamaica so brutal and so senseless that one might almost suppose that it was raised by far-sighted friends, who hoped that the disgust which it is calculated to excite would in due time be converted into sympathy for the persons against whom it is directed. The streets of London are just now placarded with posters calling a meeting upon the subject, which contain the following among other attractive announcements:—"Jamaica Massacre," "Three Thousand Executions," "Eight Miles of Dead Bodies." As persons capable of working an easy sum in long division will infer from these data that each person executed must have been a fraction over 14 ft. in length, this is somewhat hard of belief; but there are, unhappily, many thousands of persons in London to whom this simple argument would not occur, and who are quite capable of being lashed into fury by such statements. Look again at the brutal letters and telegrams sent to poor Miss Eyre, who has been guilty of no offence except that of standing up like an affectionate and spirited woman for an absent brother. "Bloody cries for vengeance on you all!" said one ferocious idiot. It is a pity that Miss Eyre could not publish his name. Another cowardly scoundrel sent her a telegram, for which he ought to be kicked, in which he said that her "daardard of a brother" ought to be hung. It is a slight satisfaction to see that it was over thirty words in length. The deputation which attended Mr. Cardwell on Saturday appears also to have been thoroughly noisy and ill-behaved. Why cannot people look at the matter calmly and in a judicial spirit? Why cannot people look at the matter and "bloody cries for vengeance" are banded about by an excited set of blaine Governor Eyre. The charge he has to meet is that of having acted with cruel severity on insufficient grounds. They are doing the very same thing. Let a man, at all events, be tried before he is hanged, especially if his alleged crime is that of hanging people before he tried them.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

Literature.

The Private History of a Polish Insurrection, from Official and Unofficial Sources. By H. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS, late Special Correspondent of the Times in Poland. 2 vols. London: Saunders, Oley, and Co.

There are, perhaps, few men in Great Britain so well acquainted with Russia and Poland as Mr. Sutherland Edwards. Long and repeated residences in both countries, and a thorough acquaintance with the language, literature, social condition, and politics of each, have given him peculiar qualifications for mastering, in all respects, the distinguishing characteristics of the two peoples; and, therefore, have fitted him in a high degree for writing the history of their continual conflicts, particularly of that last struggle, most of which he saw, and in part of which he was. We may as well say at the outset, that Mr. Edwards has acquitted himself in a very able manner in the performance of the task which he undertook. He has drawn fully, but not at too great length, upon his acquired stores of knowledge of the history of the races he was dealing with; he has availed himself of recorded official documents; and he has brought to bear his own personal observations and experience. The result is a well-written, interesting, and valuable historical work, which does infinite credit to the author, and will, we are persuaded, be accepted by most men as an authoritative standard of reference on the subject of the Polish insurrection of 1863. Mr. Edwards's sympathies are all on the side of the Poles and of their liberty and independence; but this does not warp his judgment as an historian, or prevent his seeing and indicating with unerring finger the points on which they erred, and the rocks on which they made shipwreck of their country's cause.

It is indeed a melancholy tale, that of Poland's wrongs, and her repeated but abortive efforts to redress them. It seems impossible for the Poles to live in subjection to other nations; and yet it appears equally impossible that they should ever regain their nationality and independence. Their patriotism, their love of liberty, their bravery, their intelligence, and their highly-strung poetical enthusiasm—characteristics which, regarded as crimes by neighbouring despots, led to the partition of their country, and which have since secured for them the sympathy of most of the civilised world—are as active now as ever they were, and utterly preclude the idea that they will ever consent to merge their national existence in that of either of the three partitioning nations. They will never consent to become either Russians, Austrians, or Prussians; they will be Poles, and Poles only. But, unhappily, their geographical position seems to bar the chance of their being able to realise their hopes of again consolidating their nationality out of the fragments into which it has been riven by combined force and fraud. Surrounded on all sides by the territory of the three great military Powers interested in keeping them in subjection, because sharers in the spoils of their country, the Poles are shut out from the rest of Europe, and have no means of communicating with those peoples of the West who alone either could or would aid them. They have no outlet to the sea. That is their great difficulty. Russian territory shuts them out from the Black Sea; Russian territory shuts them out from the Baltic; Germany lies between them and the oceans of the West; several countries, inhabited by races under the rule or subject to the influences of their enemies, divide them from the Mediterranean. Poland has no seaboard; and without a seaboard a country can have no real commerce; and without commerce there is small chance of a permanent national life and prosperity for any people. Ships and commerce, if not colonies, seem essential to national existence in these times; and neither of these can ever be possessed by the unhappy Poles. It seems, therefore, to follow that independent national life Poland will never have again. This is a sad conclusion, but it appears inevitable. It is to the West, and the West only, that Poland can look for sympathy and support or for a market for her produce; but, as we have said, her communication with the West lies through the territory of one or more of the Sovereigns interested in restraining her action and preventing free intercourse between her and her only friends, France and England, and it may be, by-and-by, Italy. In these circumstances, what hope is there of a resuscitation of Polish independence? None; we fear, none. That is the conclusion to which we, as onlookers, must come, however deeply we regret it, and however much it wounds our sense of justice and our love of fair-play. And this appears to be the conclusion at which Mr. Edwards has arrived, with a thorough knowledge of the subject and after a careful examination of it in all its aspects. He knows that Poland will not acquiesce in her position of subjection; he seems to feel that she can never, in all probability, shake it off; and he appears to look forward to a repetition of the frantic outbreaks and the merciless suppressions through which she has passed since 1772. A sad and heart-sickening prospect indeed, and one the realisation of which is probably destined again and again to outrage the sensibilities of mankind.

In his first volume, after taking a general review of the position and past history of Poland in connection with Russia, Mr. Edwards proceeds to detail the events which preceded the outbreak in 1863. In doing this he gives a masterly description of the revolutionary elements always present in Continental countries, and especially in Poland. He says—

The art of getting up revolutions is as little understood in England as that of getting up joint-stock companies seems to be in most parts of the Continent. The reason, no doubt, is, that for the former kind of speculation a vast number of grievances must be necessary, and for the latter a large amount of capital. The grievances must not be imaginary nor the capital fictitious, or neither enterprise can be set going, however much it may be talked about for a little while. But in England, except when money is unusually "tight," almost any industrial or commercial scheme can be started, if experienced speculators will only take it in hand; and in Poland, the richest of all countries in misfortune, a professional revolutionist can always get up an insurrection, except, indeed, in such periods of "tightness" as existed during the reign of the Emperor Nicholas, when grievances were looked up because it was dangerous to show them. The revolutionary speculators, like the commercial ones, are generally sincere, as far as a belief in the success of their own schemes is concerned; and, as the former are not afraid of death, so the latter do not fear that milder form of dissolution, known as bankruptcy.

The Polish flag, whenever and by whomever hoisted, is sure to attract, not only those who fly to it at once from ungovernable enthusiasm, but also a great many others who dare not say positively that the time for hoisting it has not yet arrived, and who, however much they may object to its being raised inopportunely, at least cannot help to knock it down. The Poles are highly sensitive; and they have so long been reproached with factiousness, that if, at a given moment, an important part of the nation is opposed sincerely and conscientiously to a movement on behalf of national independence, it is afraid, nevertheless, to pronounce its opinion openly and before all the world. The extreme party does not hesitate to accuse of want of patriotism all who are unwilling to encourage it in hopeless attempts; and these accusations are so intolerable to the moderate party, and it is so impossible for this party to unite with a foreign Government against any portion of its own countrymen, that the most extreme men in Poland have only to begin to act, in order to be joined, one after the other, by numbers who have no faith at all in their projects.

These passages give us the key to the whole disastrous affair of 1863. All Poles felt oppressed, but some of them were not inclined to risk destruction in an all but hopeless effort to shake off the oppressor. It was the forward and restless spirits who dragged their more moderate but not less patriotic brethren into the conflict. The flag once raised, all rallied round it, except, in general, the peasants, who were led by Russian emissaries to believe that the Polish leaders wished to reintroduce serfdom, or at least to impose rents upon the peasants' holdings; and this notwithstanding the proclamation of the National Government guaranteeing the possession of those holdings and promising compensation to the landlords on the achievement of independence. We have next the history of the "Life and Death of the Agricultural Society," "The Arrival of the Grand Duke Constantine and the Exile of Count Andrzej Zamoycki," "The Marquis Wielopolski, his Reforms, and the Conspiration which directly led to the Insurrection." Mr. Edwards is of opinion that the reforms proposed by the Marquis

Wielopolski—the great feature of which was the institution of a purely Polish Administration—should have been accepted, and thinks, if they had, the result would probably have been to give better government to Poland—at least, a government by Poles; and this would have attracted to the "Kingdom" the Poles of the other Russian provinces, as well as of Galicia and Posen, the Austrian and Prussian portions of the spoil. The conscription, and the way in which it was carried out, Mr. Edwards condemns *in toto*, as at once illegal, unjust, and in the highest degree oppressive. Our author next discusses the formation of that wonderful body, the National Central Government, and the hesitation and difficulties within the country, and the encouragement from without, condemning the ill-judged sentimentality which prompted public men in England to encourage the Poles to resist and reject all the efforts made to conciliate them and to rush into the desperate vortex of insurrection. The events which led to the dictatorship of Langiewicz are next related, and, with a chapter on the "Friends of Poland," the first volume concludes. The second volume recounts the events of the struggle, and is mainly a reproduction of the letters written by Mr. Edwards from the scenes of action, and published in the *Times*. With these events our readers can scarcely fail to be already familiar. We need not therefore recount them, and shall conclude our notice by again expressing our high appreciation of Mr. Edwards's work, which we cordially recommend to all who take an interest—and who does not?—in the wrongs, the struggles, and the fortunes of unhappy Sarmatia.

BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

What the Moon Saw; and other Tales. By HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. Translated by H. W. Dulcken, Ph. D. With Eighty Illustrations by A. W. Bayes. Routledge.

The Boy Pilgrims. By ANN BOWMAN. With Illustrations. Routledge.

Ellen Montgomery's Bookshelf. By the Authors of "The Wide, Wide World," &c. Coloured Illustrations. Routledge.

Original Double Acrostics: Amusing and Instructive. Routledge.

Bible Photographs: A Contrast between the Righteous and the Wicked as described in the Word of God. F. Pitman.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. By LEWIS CARROLL. With Forty Illustrations by John Tenniel. London: Macmillan and Co.

Robert Dalby and His World of Troubles. Being the Early Days of a Connoisseur. London: Chapman and Hall.

Amongst the shower of books which the season never fails to put forth, the few which are designed exclusively for children, or young people, claim and deserve no small consideration. But the time has passed for comparing the present issue with the dull and crabbed compositions which must have so dispirited youthful generations in the light of other days. Indeed, it is time for inventive genius again to exert itself and insist on progress; for, with the exception of some of the writings of Mr. James Greenwood and the late Mr. Edgar, there has been nothing new in junior literature for many years. Mrs. Lee's series of volumes, beginning with the "African Wanderers," have a family likeness which is really perplexing, and they have accomplished a prosperous career of more than fifteen years. Captain Mayne Reid is perplexing in another way. It would sometimes require a very delicate critical faculty to decide whether his books are designed for boys or for men, for angels or for demons; whether they are supposed to be founded on facts, or are intended to be simply laughed at as good-humoured expressions of a grotesque imagination. Again, charade books, which have a fatal trick of destroying the fun of a charade, have been published by the dozen; and, for all we know, there may be more to come. "Peter Parley," however, has wisely advanced with the times, and "Jacob Abbott" is "nowhere." Possibly, the real explanation of this "infinite (want of) variety" may be that few people are successful in writing for children, and that great authors are almost always unsuccessful. It is certain that Charles Dickens is not best known for the "Child's History of England," nor Niebuhr for his "Heroic Tales of Ancient Greece," nor Nathaniel Hawthorne for the "Tanglewood Tales."

But the true veteran, who struck out a new path, which none have ventured to follow, is Hans Christian Andersen, whose writings, whilst they demand nothing new to be said in their praise, remind us that our acquaintance with him began somewhere about the time when it was feared that ladies of the bedchamber might seize the reins of Government, and when new tariffs and sliding scales were heresies beginning to be talked about. It is a long time to have been delighting the English reader, old and young—that is to say, a long time to delight people with the same material or style. But no one will be surprised to find him on Christmas tables again, as they did last year, in beautiful paper and handsome cover, and teeming with acceptable engravings. The present volume is a companion to that of last year, called "Stories and Tales," and together they form the most complete edition of Andersen's tales yet published in this country. Some of the stories must be new. "What the Moon Saw" is a collection of little passages of musing on life, evolving, as usual, laughter and tears from all but those who are too prosaic for either. "Under the Willow-Tree" is an old story—the oldest in the world—which reads quite newly in its fresh and pure pathos; and "The Beetle," a stag-beetle, who teaches many a lesson because he cannot learn one, and all because they refuse to give him gold shoes such as the Emperor's horse wears, is as sound and amusing a fable as exists in the language. This is altogether a delightful volume, which is sure to find its way to its brother of last year.

The plan of Mrs. Bowman's "Boy Pilgrims" will soon be seen. George Turton and Edwin Arnold (why not Alfred Tennyson whilst they are about it?) are firm school friends, the former strong and industrious, the latter weak and lazy. The Arnolds, father and son, go to the Holy Land to pick up health, and take George with them, together with necessary servants and material. They wish to see everything, and one half the book is all about their adventures, which are very wild and dangerous, and the remainder about the history of the country. It is the period of the recent disturbances between the Maronites and the Druses, the Druses being made out all that is horrible and the Maronites all that is holy. This is so clearly an error resulting from religious enthusiasm that it is only necessary to call attention to it. The incidents are very stirring. All the English people are in continual dangers of the desert, and the fortunes of a little girl captured by a Schiek will be followed with interest, whilst the constant activity braces up Edwin Arnold to madness. The historical pages will be of assistance to Bible students, and on all convenient opportunities "the occasion is improved" in a satisfactory style. Plenty of handsome engravings accompany the volume.

Misses Elizabeth Wetherell and Amy Lothrop revive one of their heroines in order to give a name to a new volume, "Ellen Montgomery's Bookshelf." Here are the tales which Ellen loved to read when she was very young. The stories are of mixed interest and value. "Mr. Rutherford's Children" is so minute in its daily array of incident as to become wearisome; but little readers are rather fond of that, if their constant curiosity concerning trifles be any indication. The teaching is, of course, all that can be desired; and, if little Sybil or Chryssa overdoes prudence by one strawberry, Aunt gives them at least a page on the vanity of things earthly. We would rather recommend "Carl Krinken"; or, "The Christmas Stocking," in which the pretty legend of Santa Claus, with his presumed Christmas presents, is worked out very nicely, in the case of a poor boy who never gets much given to him. He is consoled by his miscellaneous collection—the cork boat, the apple, the penny, the hymn-book, &c., all telling him their several stories in a lively and sensible fashion. "Caesar," also, is a delightful little story of a boy who will insist on being miserable because his father is in the habit of kicking him out of doors without food. He encounters a good little lady, almost a fairy, who takes him here and there, teaches him instinctively to love cheerfulness, and to find cheerfulness in being good.

Except in "Zadig" or "The Arabian Nights," a matured genius is sure to make the worst head in the world for guessing riddles. We have tried the "Double Acrostics" up to headache mark, and signally failed. Under these circumstances it seems proper to recommend them only to very young readers indeed.

"Bible Photographs" is a small, plain volume of 150 pages, which may be described in the words of a note to the reader. It is printed in such a manner as to afford, as far as possible, on opposite pages, various passages from the Bible, those concerning the righteous on the left hand; those contrasting with them, concerning the wicked, on the right. Such assistance may be found useful in the nursery.

In Mr. Carroll's book we have recounted the extraordinary story of a little girl who, having been sitting for some time in the open air with her sister, suddenly falls into dreamland, and in her dream beholds all sorts of grotesque objects—such as a rabbit dressed in coat and waistcoat, a dodo carrying a walking-stick, a caterpillar smoking a hookah, a "Cashmere cat" with a veritable grin, the figures on a pack of cards endowed with life, &c.; and goes through a succession of adventures, which certainly prove the author to possess a most fertile imagination, but which are too extravagantly absurd to produce more diversion than disappointment and irritation. The end of the dream is that that which the child thought was a pack of cards "flying down upon her," after indulging in the eccentricities of a trial at law, in which the king is the judge and the knave of hearts is the prisoner, turns out to be a collection of dead leaves that had fluttered down from the trees upon her face whilst she was asleep. The two sisters agree that Alice's dream has been a very wonderful one, and—that is all; for the reader looks in vain for any immediate reason why Alice should have dreamt such a dream or for any very edifying result arising from it. But, regarding the book in the more genial light in which the younger generation would wish to view it, there can be little question that it will bear favourable comparison with many of those eccentric flights of fancy which enrich our literature at merry Christmas time. The illustrations by Mr. Tenniel not only serve to elucidate the text with considerable humour, but, at the same time, amply testify to the advance which his long and successful connection with *Punch* has enabled him to make in that department of art to which the term "comic" is generally applied. Amongst the more grotesque designs are some instances of animals, clothed in human guise, which may be called worthy the pencil of Grandville, and which certainly constitute the best guarantee for the success of the book.

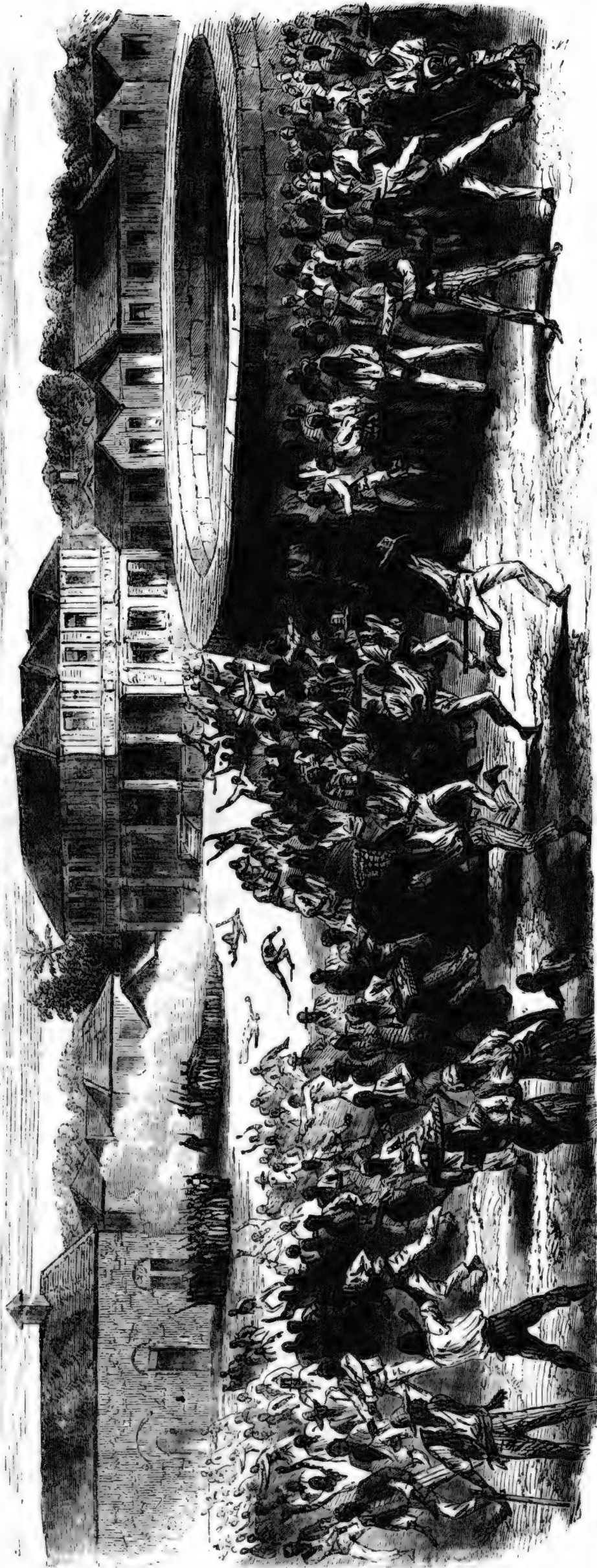
"Robert Dalby and his World of Troubles" professes to be the story, in an autobiographical form, of an orphan boy, who, born in a low-lying district of a University town, becomes in his earliest youth the football of fortune, and ere he has arrived at his teens has received more "kicks" than can often be counted by experienced manhood. Poor fellow! it is pretty evident, almost from the first chapter, that a better lot is in store for him; for the writer who has introduced him to the world could never have dealt so harshly with him had he not foreseen that so bad a beginning must, in natural sequence, lead to a good end. In the first place, death robs him of a kind-hearted grandfather, to whom he has been indebted for his subsistence, and he is afterwards removed from the humble roof that has sheltered him to the employment of a dog-fancier, who is soon condemned to imprisonment, on a charge of poaching. Thereupon the ill-starred youth encounters a variety of misfortunes, until, when in a state of absolute beggary, he is ultimately adopted by a distant relative, who calls herself his aunt, and under her auspices he is (to use the language of the book) "converted into a market-boy." While thus employed, he attracts the notice of the mayor of the town, who sends him as a day pupil to a public school, where he continues to receive from his aunt a small weekly allowance, which he expends in the purchase of a "picture-magazine." Amongst the works of art with which the pages of that publication are interspersed is a picture after Rembrandt, which so excites the imagination of the youth that he is at once imbued with a desire to become an artist. In order to give encouragement to this inclination, he metamorphoses his attic into a studio, and commences the exercise of the painter's art. Meanwhile he accepts a situation as errand boy to a small stationer, and thus earns, during his play-hours, sufficient to satisfy many of his boyish wants and requirements. He is now determined to paint a picture, and with that view constructs, in a primitive fashion, an easel and a palette, and forthwith proceeds to copy on a panel, made out of the lid of a box, the work by Rembrandt above referred to. In this pursuit he encounters, as may well be imagined, many obstacles incident to the position of an aspiring young artist who knows not how to use his brush or to mix his colours. At length he receives the necessary assistance from a proficient in the art, and seems now to be in a fair way of advancing in his studies without being exposed to greater difficulties than naturally fall to the lot of a youth who is bent upon the accomplishment of a particular object in life. In course of time he is apprenticed to a stone-carver, and hence is enabled to add the occupation of a sculptor to that of a painter—the exercise of the modeller's art being taught him by the father of a young lady with whom he speedily falls in love. But his troubles are not yet at an end, for his guardian friend the carver dies; and he is again left without any ostensible occupation, until he makes the acquaintance of a Jew picture-dealer, who takes him into his employ, and, through his money-making instrumentality, he ultimately becomes a rich man; and, being now resident at the Hague, he there marries the girl who had captivated him during his days of poverty. Thus, after all his trials and crosses, the young adventurer attains a position which, as may naturally be supposed, he enjoyed and appreciated all the more from the patience and perseverance he had exhibited in his struggles to attain it.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Little Songs for Me to Sing. The Illustrations by J. A. Millais, R.A., with Music composed by HENRY LESLIE. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

The story of this pretty little book is thus told in the preface:—"The little songs which are published in this volume were composed by Mr. Henry Leslie for his children, without a thought of their ever being made public. From the very numerous requests for copies of them by friends who heard them sung it became necessary to print them. Mr. Leslie mentioned the idea of an illustrated edition to Mr. Millais, who cordially entered into it. Thus it has occurred that a book of such musical trifles is offered to the public." With a composer like Mr. Leslie and an illustrator like Mr. Millais, the "Little Songs" could not fail to be good; and the book is good in every sense, the words and the printing, paper, and binding being all worthy of the music and the engravings.

Messrs. Sampson Low, Son, and Marston have issued, under the general title of "Great Fun," a series of eight little books for little children, with illuminated covers and highly coloured illustrations, and which are sure, despite some few deficiencies, to interest and amuse the juveniles. The individual titles of the several books are sufficiently indicative of their nature; and we shall therefore content ourselves with transcribing them. The first which we take up is entitled "Master Mischief" and "Miss Meddle"; the second, "Artistical Arthur" and "Charles's Riding Lesson"; the third, "History of Hop, Skip, and Jump" and "Phemie and the Fern Fairy"; the fourth, "The House that was Built for Dolly" and "Grandmamma's Spectacles"; the fifth, "The Story of Dolly Dowsie and the Live Rocking-Horse"; the sixth, "Cousin Nelly's Stories After School"; the seventh, "The Cherry-Coloured Cat and Her Three Friends"; and the eighth, "Dog Toby's Doings" and "Harry Highstepper and His Horse." Truly, if children nowadays are not interested in their studies, and do not learn fast, it is not for want of good books and other helps. There were no such advantages to be had when we were young. The rising generation of the present day ought to be very grateful.



THE DISTURBANCES IN JAMAICA: DISPERSING A NEGRO MOB.—(FROM A SKETCH BY A. PEARCE.)

THE RIOTS IN JAMAICA

SOME details as have been received of the recent troubles in Jamaica we have already placed before our readers; and, now that the Commission has been formed and Sir Henry Storks is appointed not only principal Commissioner but temporary Governor of the island during the inquiry which is to be made into the whole of the proceedings of the insurrection and the subsequent action of the Government, we shall do well to wait further intelligence before committing ourselves to any decided opinion on either side. Under the circumstances, nothing less could be done than to institute a complete investigation of the whole series of events; and, although it would, of course, have been impossible for Governor Eyre to remain in office during an inquiry into the events of which he had the direction, no more can be done than to suspend him from all official functions and, in a certain sense, place him on his trial. Should the evidence collected by the Commission prove (as we sincerely hope it may) that the severe measures taken against the insurgents were no more than necessary vindications of law and justice for the protection of the European population, Governor Eyre will probably be reinstated in the position from the duties of which he is only temporarily relieved. Whatever may be the issue, however, the matter is now one of evidence; and there can be little doubt that the intelligence yet received includes but a small part of the whole history of the rebellion.



REGULAR CAVALRY OF THE LEBANON.



FOOT GENDARMERIE OF THE LEBANON



MOUNTED GENDARMERIE OF THE LEBANON.

The Engraving which we publish this week, from an original sketch, depicts one of those assemblies of rioters, who, it may be, with vague intentions, but certainly with an animosity which only requires some trifling incident to turn it into unreasoning fury, have exhibited hostile intentions, not now for the first time, but with an obvious reliance upon the influence of combined action in various parts of the island. How far anything like an organised plot really extended, and whether the Government used only reasonable means for crushing a dangerous and sudden outbreak, or were involved in that sort of panic which resulted in a general and almost indiscriminate slaughter of their supposed enemies, remains to be seen, and will certainly not be determined until some time after the meeting of Parliament.

THE GOVERNOR AND PEOPLE OF LEBANON.

THE name of Lebanon was anciently given to the two mountain ranges which begin in the neighbourhood of Tripoli and run parallel to each other for about seventy miles to the northern boundary of Palestine; but they are now more commonly known as Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, the former being the range nearest to the sea, while Anti-Lebanon runs so far inland as to overhang Damascus. Between these ranges lies the fertile valley of Hollow Syria, which was anciently the "Land of Hamath," but is now called by the natives El Beká, or the valley par excellence. The western side of Lebanon

is very thickly studded with the villages of the Maronites and Druses, of whose quarrels and mutual reprisals we some time ago heard so much. The chief occupations of these people are tending silkworms, cultivating the vine, and feeding sheep. Numbers of the men are employed in conveying merchandise on the backs of mules from Beyrout to Damascus. The majority of the population is Christian, and the rest Mohammedan. The Christians are of various sects—as Roman and Greek Catholics, Maronites, and others. The Druses are a heretical sect of Mohammedans who took their rise in the beginning of the eleventh century, and derive their name from Derazi (plural Deruz), who propagated fanatical doctrines amongst the mountaineers. Forty large towns and villages are inhabited by about 30,000 Druses, and 230 towns and villages are inhabited by mixed Druses and Christians. The power of the present Governor of Lebanon, Davoud Pacha, has just been renewed for a period of five years; the necessary formalities adopted by the Porte and the representatives of the five Powers at Constantinople having been observed; it may therefore be hoped that Lebanon may enjoy a new period of security under the liberal and enlightened policy of its Christian Governor, and that the wounds of the long conflict between the rival populations may be entirely healed. Davoud Pacha was unknown in Syria until he was nominated Governor of Lebanon by the choice of the Sublime Porte and the contracting Powers—that is to say, for that province of the empire where the diversity of races and the differences in religion create a constantly recurring difficulty for those who are in any sort of authority. The history of the last quarter of a century fully attests the fact that the problem of government in Syria was not easy of solution; and if we go still further back we find no records but those of anarchy and mutual oppression exercised by whichever party was able for a time to snatch the power from the other. It became the business of the Governor, who was a Christian and a stranger having no reliable support from the country and opposed by all those whose ambitious designs were thwarted by his presence, to inaugurate a new era of protection and justice for all those who would place themselves under his authority, or would assist in establishing a system of greater freedom and security. Under his loyal and able administration the people, without distinction of race, have been governed with an equal hand. During the last three years complete security has been experienced by a country where even the remembrance of it had been forgotten. He has endeavoured to extinguish the remembrance of old hatreds, and to initiate a larger and more generous sentiment than that which is confined to districts and geographical divisions. His regular troops are organised like those of European Powers, and are composed of natives, well armed, and instructed by French



DAVOUD PACHA, GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE LEBANON.

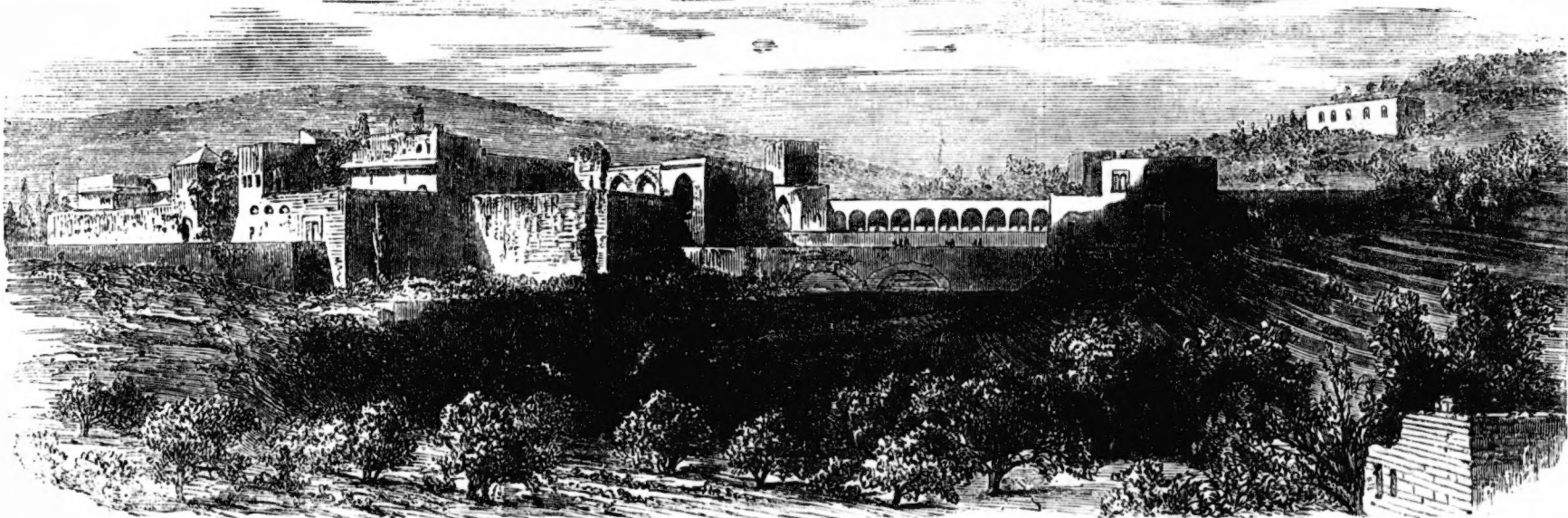
officers. After all, however, Davoud Pacha resigned his office in consequence of the obstacles thrown in the way of his administration by the Porte; but, in consequence of the strong representations of his friends, he has again accepted power, after obtaining large concessions in favour of the Christian population and the country submitted to his authority. He has profited by his visit to Constantinople by the advantages he has been able to secure, one of which is an annual subsidy of 3,000,000 piasters, intended for the support of the army, of which the effective force will number 1500 men. The routes from Damascus and Saida will be occupied not only by troops of Ottoman infantry, but also by two squadrons of Cossacks and two squadrons of Mussulman cavalry. The administration of the plain of Balbec, which formerly belonged to the Government of Damascus, and where the interests of a large number of Christians are involved, will be given up to him; as will also the arrears of taxes, on the condition that they shall be employed for works of public utility.

The corvette in which the Governor returned to Syria will remain under his orders in the roads of Beyrout.

The palace of Beit Eddin, where Davoud Pacha resides during the greater part of the year, is situated in the midst of the mountains at seven hours' journey from Beyrout; a deep ravine separates it from Deir-El-Kamar, and when seen from a distance it is difficult to calculate the immense space occupied by this princely residence, which was formerly chosen by the Emir Bechir for the seat of his Government. After passing the first gate, the visitor enters a vast courtyard, or rather platform, where two or three thousand men might manoeuvre with ease. Stables for 500 horses, and a barrack for soldiers, occupies the longest side of this space, at the extremity of which a great gate, supported by pillars, gives access to a second interior courtyard, which leads to a series of magnificent apartments, comprising the palace itself and all the halls of state.

THE OPERA.

THE second musical season of the year 1865 seems now at an end, and the pantomimic season is about to begin. During the performances of "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp; or, Harlequin and the Flying Palace," the Royal English Opera Company (Limited) will limit its operatic representations to a little piece by Mr. Charles Deffell, called "Christmas Eve," which is to be played by way of *lever de rideau*. A grand national operatic theatre, at which opera is made entirely subservient to pantomime, is surely an anomaly. But bills must be paid; a theatre must be made, somehow or other, to meet its expenses; and, as the public prefer the pantomimes of the Royal English Opera Company to its musical productions, it is absolutely necessary, in the in-



PALACE OF BEIT-EDDIN, RESIDENCE OF DAVOUD PACHA.



PEOPLE OF LEBANON.

interest of English opera itself, to produce pantomimes every Christmas at the theatre supposed to be specially devoted to the maintenance and cultivation of the English lyrical drama. We think, however, it might be found a good plan not to confine the operatic performances, during the pantomime season, to one short act of indifferent music. After the first burst of success "Aladdin" will not be so overpoweringly attractive but that a large portion of the audience will be very willing to sit through two hours or two hours and a half of "Le Domino Noir" beforehand. The manner in which "The Black Domino" is played at Covent Garden does credit to the theatre, considered as an operatic establishment; and, although the antics of the clown and pantomime may have greater charms for some people than the exquisite singing of Miss Louisa Pyne, we do not suppose that any of the pantomime amateurs are so debased as to be incapable of deriving some degree of pleasure from Auber's music. Up to the present time the English Opera Company has certainly deserved well of the public. No opera of the same importance was ever so well played at an English theatre as "L'Africaine" has been, during the present season, at Covent Garden. The recent performances of "Le Domino Noir" have also been very admirable, and we trust they will not be altogether discontinued.

It has often been asserted by hostile critics that Meyerbeer composed quite at his leisure and very slowly. The truth, however, is that he worked at his art every day, and that he has written a great deal of music which the public has not only not heard, but has not even heard of. Nothing gives a better notion of the indefatigability of this great composer than the profusion of care which he bestowed upon "L'Africaine," for which Meyerbeer wrote enough music to have made the fortune of half a dozen operas of the ordinary three-act dimensions.

The so-called "second part" of "L'Africaine" which Messrs. Brandus, of Paris, have just announced, is really a second edition, or rather setting, of the work. It contains no less than twenty-two pieces and fragments of pieces, on just as many "numbers" as are contained in the acting edition of the opera now in circulation. Among the pieces, of which Meyerbeer had prepared two entirely different versions, may be mentioned Inez's romance in the first act, "Adieu, mon beau rivage;" Selika's "Sur mes genoux" (known as the "Air du sommeil"), in the second act; the finale, including the chorus of Indians, in the third act; the chorus, with ballet, in the finale of the fourth act; and Selika's grand scena beneath the manzanilla (originally treated at great length, and in three separate movements), in the fifth act. It is remarkable that the first act, which most persons regard as the finest and most complete in the opera, stands now precisely as Meyerbeer wrote it in the first instance, with the unimportant exception, perhaps, of Inez's romance, of which two versions are in existence. M. Fétis has written a preface to this new volume of "Africaine" music, and, in every case in which a piece has been set twice over, will, no doubt, explain which of the two settings was the original one. The third act (that of the ship), which has been so terribly cut about by M. Costa, was, when it first came into M. Fétis's hands, twice as long as it is now in the authorized French version. It included a bacchanalian round for the sailors, a "call to breakfast" (surely of a very original character?), a scena, and a septet, all of which it was found necessary to omit in the representation, but which will be found intact in the forthcoming supplement.

A German musical paper has published a list of all the pieces written by Meyerbeer for "L'Africaine," with the date of each. It appears from this list (of which a translation will be found in last week's *Musical World*) that, although Meyerbeer was a long time completing his "Africaine" (or, rather his two "Africaines"), he composed and scored the pieces, considered individually, with great rapidity.

FINE ARTS.

MR. FLATOU'S COLLECTION OF OIL PAINTINGS.

ONE of the disadvantages of such an exhibition as Mr. Flatou's is that, unless it be visited soon after the opening, a great many of the pictures—and probably the best—will have been removed; for a dealer naturally waives the rule usual at most galleries, that "no picture can be removed until the close of the exhibition." But there is some compensation for this defect in the fact that a dealer selects his collection with great care, so that, though new pictures are comparatively rare, the standard of merit is based on a higher average than can be formed for general exhibitions.

We find in Mr. Flatou's gallery several old favourites, and are very glad to meet them again—indeed, if only for the opportunity of re-encountering old friends in this way, we consider dealers' exhibitions worthy of encouragement. Mr. Pettie's "Drumhead Court-martial" (7), of which we had occasion to speak in terms of praise when it appeared on the walls of the Royal Academy, reappears here, and can be seen to better advantage. The drawing of the figures is spirited, and the tone of colouring peculiarly pleasing. The composition is a little scattered, however, and it is not easy for the eye to decide whether the judges, the culprit, or the guard are the principal point of the picture. Mr. Pettie's pictures at the Winter Exhibition in Suffolk-street show an improvement in this respect, and we can see every reason to believe that this young and rising artist will, with Mr. Orchardson, who paints in the same style—perhaps in the same studio—take a prominent place among the popular painters of the day.

Mr. Downard's "Sunny Lane" (16) is another picture which appeared in the Academy last year. We are glad of an opportunity of inspecting it closely. It possesses great merit, and though unpretending in scope, is noticeable for clever execution in one or two difficult passages. Another picture by the same artist, "Opportunity makes the Thief" (33), contains the best-drawn and best-painted cat we remember to have seen for many a long day. Puss is a most difficult creature to depict, and very few artists indeed have succeeded in giving her distinguishing characteristics faultlessly. Her very familiarity makes the difficulty greater—we are so used to see her that until we sit down to draw her we have not noticed how peculiar is the flattened body, the long widening flank, the muscular set of the shoulder, and the low action of the leg.

There is one picture in the gallery which deserves a visit—"Viola and Olivia" (19), painted by Mr. Hook in his first style. It is almost impossible to believe that this canvas, which looks like a superior Pickersgill, can be the work of the same hand which depicts with such truth and vigour the fresh briny air of Cornwall, the clear atmosphere of Brittany, the long stretches of heaving green sea, and the brown skins and bright eyes of miners and fishers and their wives and sweethearts.

Mr. Archer, a painter whose works in the Academy we have watched with great interest, is represented by two or three excellent specimens. "How the Little Girl Sat to Gainsborough" (82) is as charming, graceful, and true as if it had been painted by the great master himself. "The Pet Canary" (83) is a pleasing portrait, in which a little stiffness of pose is more than atoned for by rare colouring. "The Convent Gate" (41) and "The Puritan's Daughter" (121) are in parts not equal to Mr. Archer's reputation. "Old Maid" (125) is quite worthy of it.

It is hardly fair to Sir Edwin Landseer to exhibit "No Escape" (90), evidently an extremely early work, without some mention of the date at which it was done. It is possible that some people may mistake the crudities of the beginner for the carelessness of the veteran. The drawing we may observe is all there; but there are evidences of a want of power over the vehicle which might well encourage beginners who see what facility the great animal-painter has now acquired. Another early work by a now famous artist is, we conjecture, "Rebecca" (102), by Mr. Boxall. When we recall his powerful portrait of Mr. Bowman in the last Academy, it is scarcely possible to believe that this affected prettiness is by the same vigorous hand.

There are several fine specimens of Mr. Creswick's genius, none of them, to our thinking, more effective than "Allport Rocks, on the Derbyshire Moors" (71), which, though uninteresting in subject, displays an immense power over aerial perspective. There are

some pictures in which Mr. Creswick and his old co-worker Mr. Cooper have admitted the son of a late friend and brother-artist to the partnership. Such pictures are curious, for the different methods of work are occasionally too perceptible to admit of the effect being equally carried out. Of the pictures on which Mr. Marcus Stone paints singly, we like best "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon" (18), though it is spoilt in passages by a sweetness and smoothness of colour.

Another veteran landscape-painter whose name is always suggested by that of Mr. Creswick is Mr. Stanfield. His "Dunbar Castle" (38), with a wreck in the distance and a sailor struggling ashore in the foreground, is a fine picture.

Of the pictures by Mr. T. Faed here exhibited we like best "The Rustic Toilet" (115), as less marked by the mannerisms and the black tone that we fear threaten to injure a reputation which for the sake of the "Mitherless Bairn" we would fain see placed high on the roll of art.

We are glad to make the acquaintance of two pictures by Mr. Nicol—"The Rejected Tenant" (170) and "The Renewal of the Lease Refused" (6). Apart from the clever drawing of the figures and the capital expression of the heads, there are qualities of painting in Mr. Nicol's work which are most valuable, and which our young artists may study with immense advantage. To art he is an invaluable acquisition; but he is a delight to the general public, for he combines with a power of realisation, a vigorous and yet careful mode of handling, and a fine eye for colour in all its gradations, a very happy knack of composition, and a deep and yet rollicking humour, to find anything at all resembling which we must look back to Hogarth.

Before passing to the works of the deceased painters, we may mention that there are fine specimens of the various styles of Messrs. Lee, Linnell, Webster, Cooke, Cooper, Goodall, Shayer, Elmore, Poole, Hardy, Goode, Syer, and Barr. There are also two unsatisfactory works, by Mr. Crowe, a weak painting by Mr. Redgrave, and one or two very cold nude studies by Mr. Frost.

Of the works of deceased artists there is a tolerable choice; but, in spite of the italics in which Mr. Flatou insists that certain pictures are "the chef-d'œuvre of this grand artist," we must decline to base the reputation of any one of them on such specimens of their styles as are to be seen here. Turner may, perhaps, have painted things worse than "Landscape in Cumberland: the chef-d'œuvre of the artist," but he has also painted a great many as good, and an infinite number that were better. Nasmyth, probably, did not often do better than the "Waterfall in Glen Shirrah" (138), on which Mr. Flatou does not lay much stress, but Etty has surpassed "The Fleur-de-Lis" (120), described as his masterpiece. "A Landscape" (45), by Mulready, is really fine; and one or two specimens of Müller are remarkably good, and there is a fair Copley Fielding on the walls. Stothard is represented by some very interesting pictures, "The First of May" (151) most especially. There are also good examples of Roberts and Solomon. We have seen better Morlands and worse Eggs.

Of works by foreign artists there is a fair sprinkling, the finest picture being Isabey's "Return to Port" (141), a noble seapiece, with admirably-painted water. There are two clever animal pictures by Noterman, a good example of Edouard Frère, and a nice Duvrger. We may also mention, in passing, works by Troyon, Seben, Devos, Stroebel, and Groenland.

As a natural consequence of the removal of pictures on purchase, we fail to find several of the paintings included in the catalogue, their places being supplied by others, some of them well worthy of notice. We also observe that the names of two or three painters occur on the wrapper, but do not figure in the list inside. On the whole, the exhibition is a most interesting one, and we regret that it will be the last, as Mr. Flatou is about to retire from business.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

AMONG the mass of private bills that await the consideration of the new Parliament there is a small percentage which are not brought forward for the purpose of still further cutting up the metropolis with railways, but are, on the contrary, intended to improve it. The Board of Works has taken the field with renewed energy. Middle-row, Holborn, is to be removed; the Burdett-road, Finsbury, the Commercial-road, Whitechapel, the High-street, Kensington, are all to be improved. Park-lane will cease to be a standing reproach to the Board, for it is to be widened to an extent that will not only accommodate its traffic but make it one of the finest main thoroughfares in London. The new street to the Mansion House is to be proceeded with. Two new and magnificent approaches are to be made to the Thames Embankment—one passing over the site of Northumberland House, and giving a wide prospect from the corner of the Haymarket right across the river; the other, equally spacious, from the corner of Wellington-street on to the embankment at the foot of Cecil-street. A magnificent crescent is to be built along the embankment stretching from Hungerford to Waterloo Bridge. Preliminary steps are to be taken for embanking the south side of the Thames, and on the north the embankment is to be continued from what is called "Mr. Cubitt's road" up to Chelsea.

This makes a very fair list of improvements, and, above all, of improvements that are most urgently needed. The Board of Works are evidently determined to maintain the reputation they have justly earned. If they cannot make London beautiful in the Continental sense of the word, they are at least bent on making it more habitable and convenient, on facilitating the passage of its enormous traffic, and, by wider and straighter streets, bringing its almost unmanageable distances more under control. What they have already done they have done well; and, as they have done what at the outset they intended to do, the promise of these announced improvements comes upon us in a more hopeful form than the dim visions in which the ideas of metropolitan improvements used to flicker before the constitution of the Board. Already we have one fine new street, many are improved by better lighting, all have been properly numbered and clearly named. The main drainage system is complete, with the exception of the short link of low-level sewer which is to run under the Thames embankment and the Embankment Railway; and, the greatest and most important of all, the drainage pumping stations, will be begun next week. As it is, however, all except about one eighth of London's refuse is now conveyed far away—a fact which anyone who travels by water between Barking and Crossness Point will discover. The great embankment, too, is fast progressing. The foundations are laid at Westminster, and the granite facing is begun. Part of the parapet has been fixed near Temple Gardens; and all along the line of works between these two points the river has been dammed out, the slime and refuse cleared away, the concrete poured in, and the filling up of earth begun.

Since the first conception of this great work many improvements have been made upon its original design, and none greater than those of its northern approaches, which the Board of Works are now applying to Parliament for powers to carry out. The most important of these is the alteration which is to be effected by the removal of no less a building than our old friend, Northumberland House. This new thoroughfare will be a continuation in a perfectly straight line of Cockspur-street, and passing through the corner houses of Charing-cross, west of Northumberland House, removes part of the old mansion itself, and traversing its gardens, Northumberland-street, and Percy-wharf, comes out upon the broad highway of the embankment, which at this point will be about 300 ft. wide. The sweep of the river makes the embankment at this place wider than at any other part except east of Hungerford Bridge, where it is upwards of 400 ft., and as the 300 ft. below Northumberland House will, of course, not be all required for the roadway along the embankment, which will be uniformly of 80 ft. width, a large clump of trees will be planted here, but not so as to interfere with the fine view down the new avenue across the river from Charing-cross. The width of this road is to be 80 ft.; and on both sides the land will be occupied with fine buildings, the ground-rents going far to repay the cost of the thoroughfare, which will not exceed £150,000. At the bottom of this road a handsome steam-boat pier is to be built. Another road, but one of less importance, though still of the same

width, is to be made by removing the block of dirty wharves which shut in the end of Whitehall-place, and thus giving another line of route to the embankment. A third, though only of 40 ft. width, will enter on the river road from Villiers-street; and the fourth, as wide and handsome as that to be taken through Northumberland House, is to pass from the corner of Wellington-street, through Savoy-street and a crowd of little tenements and wharves, on to the embankment at the foot of Cecil-street. Along all these avenues the Board of Works retains the freehold and the power of dictating the style in which the houses are to be built.

Between Hungerford and Waterloo Bridges a space of more than 400 ft. of dirty slime will be reclaimed from the river by the embankment. Along this wide space it is intended to build a crescent-shaped row of fine shops, with a belt of trees planted in the centre of the embankment. East of Waterloo Bridge, at the foot of Surrey-street, the bank again widens, and another space in the centre is set apart to be occupied by trees and shrubberies up to the Temple Gardens. Beyond this it again narrows, and the wide road and footpaths will leave little room for planting. Almost equal in importance to these promised facilities and improvements is that which the Board of Works propose in the widening of Park-lane. It is proposed to take down the whole block of buildings from Gloucester House, the residence of the Duke of Cambridge, up to No. 1, Park-lane, in front of Holderness House, and to put back the railings of the private garden ground which adjoins the Park some 25 ft. up to near Grosvenor-gate. This will give to Park-lane a uniform width of 70 ft. (the width of Cannon-street) from Piccadilly up to close upon Grosvenor-street. Of course the Board of Works hope that this improvement will not be allowed to stop short at this point; but as the rest of the land on the left is Hyde Park, a special dispensation must be given by Parliament to enable them to touch it. That they may obtain this permission is most earnestly to be wished. The encroachments on the park is not worth mentioning, for from Grosvenor-gate the lane is already so wide that putting back the park railings some 25 ft. would give the whole road a width of 70 ft. from Piccadilly to the Marble-arch.

These are some of the improvements which the Board of Works promise us if they can but obtain the funds with which to carry them out.—*Times*.

VERY GENTLEMANLY!—Governor Eyre has a sister residing in London, and a few days ago she addressed a letter to the newspapers, vindicating her brother's conduct. Since then the following very manly letter and telegram have been sent to the lady:—"Madam,—You have done a smart thing, no doubt, trying to defend your bloody, murderous brother, who deserves a rope if anyone ever did; and I hope he will get it. That £50 you speak of makes his character the blacker. It is stolen goods; plunder from the poor blacks. A greater scoundrel never walked the earth; and to help him he got the bloody Nelson and others to work, and 'rum'd' the sailors that they might cut up the poor, because they are black and coloured. The curse of the nation and the world will ever rest upon your family for these bloody crimes. Bloody cries for vengeance upon you all." "Madam,—I have just read your silly letter, and just as sure as your dastard of a brother murdered poor Mr. Gordon he shall swing for it at the Old Bailey."

THE LATE GALE.—During the past week a severe gale visited some parts of our coast. On the Irish coast a lamentable wreck took place. The screw-steamer *Barbadian*, of Liverpool, bound from that port to Barbadoes, was totally wrecked on the Blackwater bank, on the 6th inst. As soon as intelligence of the wreck reached Wexford the life-boat of the National Life-boat Institution at once proceeded off to the bank, and, on approaching it, a mast was observed out of the water, with four men clinging to it. The sea was breaking, literally, mountains high, and the greatest danger existed in nearing the wreck, as the vessel, having gone to pieces, the machinery and other portions of her were strewn about in the vicinity of the mast on which the people were. The life-boat attempted five times to get to the mast, and was sometimes so close as to cheer up the poor fellows, and as many times failed to accomplish her noble purpose. It was now evident that the crew of the life-boat were becoming exhausted, having been four hours at their fruitless task; but, summoning all their remaining strength, they determined to make a last final effort, which, happily, proved successful in rescuing the sailors from their awful position. Out of the crew and passengers (thirty-seven in number) of the steamer, twelve, including the captain and chief mate, it is feared, have perished, only twenty-five persons having reached the shore. The life-boat of the National Institution stationed at Tyrella, in Dundrum Bay, was also the means, in the midst of a very heavy surf, on the 6th inst., of rescuing the crew of five men of the schooner *Daniel O'Connell*, bound also from Liverpool to Newry with Indian corn. The Birmingham No. 2 life-boat of the institution stationed at Caistor, on the Norfolk coast, was also the means, on the 11th inst., of rescuing the crew of six men from the brig *Lucy*, of Sunderland, which was driven, in a gale of wind, on the Barber Sand. The life-boat was overwhelmed by a heavy sea when getting away from the vessel.

LAW AND CRIME.

WE have been informed, upon credible authority, that the Attorney-General proposes a revision of the present system of trial by jury in civil cases, and is open to suggestions for its amendment. The subject is by no means new to these columns. We have frequently pointed out, not only the failure of justices occurring through the employment of juries upon civil questions, but the inconsistency and needlessness of such a means of judicature. Perhaps a few Britons may be startled by the proposal for the abolition of the great "palladium of British liberty." Well, firstly, then, we admit trial by jury to be the very foundation, essence, and consolidation of our freedom, since it leaves the press unshackled in political controversy, and prevents the arbitrary imprisonment of the subject. But what has this fact to do with the arbitrament of a legal question or of the amount of a disputed debt? Here is A owes B (or is said to owe him) a certain sum of money (upwards of £50), for goods sold and delivered. The question is to be decided by a jury of a dozen men gathered haphazard from the vicinity, with no better qualification than that of being taxed and rated. The issue may turn upon conflicting evidence as to the liability of A, who may profess to have acted only as the agent of C, and to have given notice (which B denies) of the fact. What law of the Constitution is it that imposes upon these twelve men the duty or the privilege of deciding upon the credibility of one or the other set of witnesses? Yet, for the sum of a few pence each this jury, to whose arbitrament no sane man, not being driven to a law suit, would leave the most ordinary question of his affairs, must relinquish the decision of a matter concerning, it may be, his entire worldly wealth. A single blockhead, one plausible, wrong-headed fellow among the whole, may prevent a just verdict or carry an unjust one. But, if the amount be under £50, the action may be brought in the County Court, and decided by an educated qualified lawyer, not likely to be misled by any amount of eloquence or "bamboozling" on the part of a counsel; in fact, not likely to listen to it for a moment, or to be troubled with it at all. Take another case—common enough—that of breach of promise of marriage. The jury has to decide whether an actual legal promise was given (whereby the law as well as the fact is cast upon them), and what are the damages sustained by the plaintiff on the breach of such promise, if made and broken. Where, in such case, is the advantage of the jury to British liberty to either side? Again, take the case of a libel—the late action of Mrs. Yelverton against the *Saturday Review*, for instance. Prosecutions for seditious libels are rightly and constitutionally referred to juries, who have, in the exercise of their duties and privileges, often checked the assumption of arbitrary power by Government attempting to control the right of free political discussion, and thereby protected the liberty of the subject. But what was the question in this Yelverton case? Not one of fact, surely? It was whether a gross attack upon an unfortunate and ill-used lady did or did not exceed the limits of legitimate comment. How could a jury know? They did not. They returned a verdict, of which, unless rumour be untrue, they have since repented, but, in any event, one of which they ought to have been ashamed. Almost while they were doing this, another jury gave £2500 damages for a breach of promise of marriage. So that, while, on the one hand, a female who succumbs to the arts of a betrayer under promise only of marriage, is to be consoled with a small fortune, another who believes herself to be legally married, and whose belief in this respect is justified by the decision of Court after Court, until at length, overthrown by a divided opinion in the

last form of appeal, renders herself liable to be branded with the most ignominious term applicable to woman. And this question as to what are legitimate comments by the press is to be left to a jury! Why, notwithstanding the enormous sale of journals at the present day—it may safely be averred that no dozen men could be selected, at random, from the jury class, all of whom would have a reasonable acquaintance with the history, character, and functions of the press. It would be as rational to expect them to decide a question of therapeutics, astronomy, or engineering, as one like this of pure law and national custom, governed by precedent. The only questions for them—taking him and ancient legal principle—should have been, "Did defendant print and publish this?" and "Was it true?" How could they tell what was legitimate comment? Of course they decided wrongly, and—paradoxical as it may sound—very right of them so to do. For, if I ask a sweep or greengrocer for advice on a point of law, intending to act thereon, and he answers to the best of his ability, leading me thereby utterly astray, that sweep or greengrocer does no wrong; but it is I—the querist—who have acted absurdly and stand the risk of suffering the penalty of folly. The jury in the Yelverton case have shown the utter stupidity and absurdity of the delegation of judicial functions to unqualified persons, and the evil that they have done in the case of the individual may work for good in assisting a needful reform.

The case of Storer, the chemist, committed three months since to Salisbury goal, to await trial for poisoning, exhibits a most disgraceful state of our criminal law. On the 21st of last September Storer was put into prison, not as a punishment, but only as a security for his being brought up at the Assizes to be held in the following March—six months after. During all this time it was contemplated to keep this wretched, unconvicted man—member of an educated profession—subject to the same rules as those imposed upon the lowest class of prisoners. His hair was cut by the prison official; he was subjected to strict confinement, and only allowed occasionally to communicate with his friends. For all that can be known, he may have been quite innocent of the crime alleged against him. He wrote an explanatory statement, which would in all probability have secured him an acquittal. There is no need for us to enter into the circumstances of the charge or of the defence. It is quite sufficient that the man had not been, and now never will be, tried; for, taking advantage of the prison regulations as to the allowance of baths, he committed suicide by drowning himself, having previously tied his hands behind his back. He left a letter explaining his reason for the commission of the dreadful act—"Knowing as I do," says he, "that I should get an acquittal if I stood the test of an earthly trial, yet I cannot live with a broken heart another three months in this goal." The man has been killed by a defect in our judicial system. And this defect, be it understood, applies only to the provinces. The metropolis has its own exceptional legislation. The magistrates are paid men of experience and ability, not mere landed gentry, clerical, or superannuated officers, as in the country. So careful are the London authorities of the liberty of the subject, that a prisoner on the most trivial or most serious charge must be brought before the magistrate (who sits daily) as nearly as may be immediately after his capture. He must not be remanded for more than eight days at a time. The higher Criminal Courts sit frequently. But in the rural districts a prisoner may, as we see, be locked up for six months, degraded, maddened, and driven to suicide without a conviction, but only on a committal by a bench of magistrates, for whose fulfilment of their duties not the slightest legal education or status is required.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE demand for money having increased considerably, and some large parcels of gold having been withdrawn from the Bank of England for shipment to the Continent, the market for Home Stocks has been in a very lively state, and the market for Foreign Stocks, Consols, for Money, have marked 6½; Ditto, for Account, 7½; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 80; Exchequer Bills, 92, to 2s. prem; Bank Stock has been 249.

The supply of money on offer is moderately extensive, but the lowest quotations for the best paper are as follow:—

Thirty Days' Bills	.. .. .	per cent.
Sixty Days' .. .. .	.. .. .	64
Three Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	64
Four Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	64
Six Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	7

In the Stock Exchange, money for short periods is worth from 54 to 6 per cent.

Indian Stocks, &c., have changed hands slowly. India Stock, 217 to 219; Ditto Five per Cents, 107 to 104½; Rupee Paper, 10½ to 102 and 108 to 109; India Bonds, 15, to 20, prem.

Some of the Continental exchanges have fluctuated to some extent.

A new loan for Turkey of £5,000,000 will be shortly announced.

The market for Foreign Securities has been inactive, and, in some instances, a further decline has taken place. The quotations are:—Brazilian Bonds, 7½ ex div.; Egyptian Seven per Cents, 92; Ditto, 1884, 91½; Greek Coupons, 64; Italian Five per Cents, 1885, 70½; Mexican Three per Cents, 24½; Ditto, 1884, 23½; Portuguese Three per Cents, 64½; Russian Five per Cents, 1864, 84½; Ditto Three per Cents, 84½; Serbian Five per Cents, 73; Spanish Three per Cents, 100; Ditto, 1884, 97½; Ditto, 1885, 97½; Ditto, 1886, 97½; Ditto, 1887, 97½; Ditto, 1888, 97½; Ditto, 1889, 97½; Ditto, 1890, 97½; Ditto, 1891, 97½; Ditto, 1892, 97½; Ditto, 1893, 97½; Ditto, 1894, 97½; Ditto, 1895, 97½; Ditto, 1896, 97½; Ditto, 1897, 97½; Ditto, 1898, 97½; Ditto, 1899, 97½; Ditto, 1900, 97½; Ditto, 1901, 97½; Ditto, 1902, 97½; Ditto, 1903, 97½; Ditto, 1904, 97½; Ditto, 1905, 97½; Ditto, 1906, 97½; Ditto, 1907, 97½; Ditto, 1908, 97½; Ditto, 1909, 97½; Ditto, 1910, 97½; Ditto, 1911, 97½; Ditto, 1912, 97½; Ditto, 1913, 97½; Ditto, 1914, 97½; Ditto, 1915, 97½; Ditto, 1916, 97½; Ditto, 1917, 97½; Ditto, 1918, 97½; Ditto, 1919, 97½; 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